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nails for
the season

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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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Unleash your
rock potential

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Fall of Gaokao

Once considered a life-changing opportunity, the Gaokao, China's two-day National College Entrance Exam, saw a steep drop in test takers this year – a first in seven years. Nearly a million people passed up this year's test. See why on **Page 5**



CFP Photo

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Securities regulator says China ready to resume IPOs

The government is ready to end a de facto suspension of initial public offerings (IPOs) on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges after the securities regulator unveiled final guidelines for new IPOs Wednesday. The guidelines took effect yesterday.

An unidentified spokesman for the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) said the commission is already prepared to approve new firms.

The commission announced the draft guidelines on May 22 to solicit public opinion. The new guidelines were aimed to improve the price discovery function of the stock market, and to help retail investors subscribe to newly issued stocks.

The draft required the quotation system

for new issues to be revised so prices faithfully reflected market demand, and lead underwriters were asked to take steps to reign in prices.

Under the new rules, stock subscribers must use either the online or off-line subscription system, but not both, to purchase new stocks. Institutional investors used to enjoy the privilege of subscribing through both systems, while retail investors could use only the off-line system.

Three revisions were made to the draft to follow public advice the commission deemed reasonable.

The final version said a single investor may use only one account to purchase new stocks, as some institutional investors have multiple accounts. The revision is

aimed to help smaller investors get access to new stocks.

In addition, the commission said it would consider increasing the number of tradable stocks in response to suggestions the lock-down of too many stocks will not curb speculation.

However, the spokesperson said a share lock-down of large shareholders would remain in place, as it prevents frequent changes in managerial staff that could jeopardize a firm's operations and create risks. The practice is followed on many overseas markets.

The commission also added content about improving "clawback" and offering suspension mechanisms upon public requests. "Clawback" is acti-

vated when a deal is subscribed to by 100 times or more.

The CSRC suspended all new stock issues last September when it halted approvals. Since then, the stock market has plunged more than 50 percent from its peak 6,124.04 in October 2007.

The CSRC spokesman said the first few new IPOs may not be satisfactory in boosting the market, but he said the goals of the new guidelines will be achieved over time.

A total of 32 firms are on the waiting list to launch their IPOs on the A-share market, expecting to issue a combined 14 billion shares.

China State Construction Engineering is expected to issue 12 billion shares.

(Xinhua)

Porn blocking software is not mandatory, gov says

By Han Manman

The central government has stepped up to defend a new law that requires personal computers sold in the country to ship with filtering software, saying the program is intended to prevent the spread of pornography and other "unhealthy" content.

The law, set to take effect July 1, means computers must come with pre-installed filtering software packages or contain the software on a disk to protect minors from pornographic content and other "unhealthy" information on the Internet, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said.

Imported computers must also include the filters before being sold here. The ministry said it was "responding to calls from many school faculties and parents," adding users could choose to uninstall the software or reformat the hard drive if they did not like it.

The filtering software, called Green Dam Youth Escort, was produced by Jinhui Computer System Engineering, which won a government contract to develop the filter and to maintain a database of sites to block.

Company founder Bryan Zhang said the software is similar to parental control software in other countries and will transmit banned Web sites lists to client computers, much as how antivirus updates are distributed.

Critics, however, said the new filter software is an attempt to stop Chinese Internet users from viewing political content. Government officials denied this Tuesday.

"The Internet filter software is targeted at protecting youth from the spread of pornography and other unhealthy content," Qin Gang, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at the press conference.

"I think anyone who has a child, or would like one, can understand parents' concerns about unhealthy content on the Internet," Qin said.

Zhang said that while porn sites were the initial target, the software can be used to block other Web sites through the use of key words rather than Web addresses. Parents can also add their own sites to the block list.

"If a father doesn't want his son to be exposed to content related to basketball or drugs, he can block all Web sites related to those things," Zhang said.

The filtering software is the latest step taken by the government to clamp down on youth access to porn and violence.

Online game operators were ordered to add anti-addiction features to their games in 2007. However, players quickly found a way around this law by registering multiple accounts so the amount of time they spent online could not be monitored.

Earlier this year, the China Internet Illegal Information Reporting Center cited several Web sites as having large amounts of lewd content. Since the campaign began in January, the government has shut down 1,900 Web sites.

Companies such as MSN China, Sina and search engines, including Google and Baidu, have been warned to remove pornography.

You and Me teaches migrant children about AIDS

By Chen Zao

You and Me, a project sponsored by Marie Stopes International China (MSIC), was held June 6 for the first anniversary of the organization's founding. Volunteers, mostly college students, taught children at a migrant school about adolescent health and AIDS prevention.

Volunteers from Renmin University focused on helping the children to understand the need for and develop a sense of self-worth. They broke traditional school teaching models by using games as an education device.

Wang Shan, one of the volunteers from Renmin University, said this year they were recognized and welcomed by the children - something he said is evidence of the impres-

sion the group left in 2008. The students were more confident in answering the group's questions this year, he said.

The greatest challenge teaching at a school for the children of migrant workers is that many of the children have a poor educational background, Wang said. Many of the children know little or nothing about adolescent health and AIDS prevention, and consider the topics vulgar or dirty.

The volunteers also face pressure from the parents, he said. One child when handed an information packet was quick to compare it to pornography.

This was the second time MSIC and student volunteers hosted an AIDS awareness project at a school for migrant children.

Anti-terrorism drills start for National Day



Members of the special police rescue a "victim" during an anti-terrorism drill.

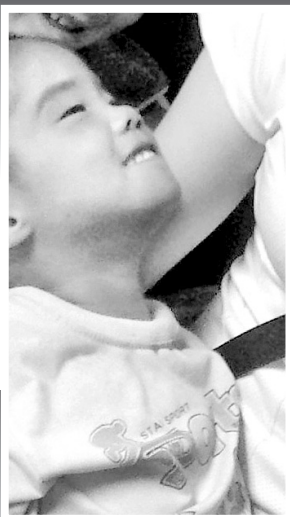
Xinhua Photo

The central government held an anti-terrorism drill Tuesday afternoon to test police ability to respond to a radioactive bomb.

The drill, held in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, kicks off a series of drills in the region, as well as in Shanxi and Hebei province.

The exercise, codenamed "Great Wall-6," is aimed to improve the police forces' ability to deal with terrorism attacks and other emergencies for the security of the celebrations to be held in Beijing around October 1, the 60th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

(By Han Manman)



58 missing children have returned to their families with the help of the Web site.

Grassroots Web seeks end to child trafficking

By Jin Zhu

The Ministry of Public Security began a nationwide campaign to crack down on human trafficking since April 9. Before that, a special group of people coming from more than 50 cities were invited to the Ministry and shared their experiences with the officials. All of them have the same identity - volunteer from the Web site Baby Come Home that helps parents find their missing children.

Meter of sunshine

"Yimiyangguang" is a female volunteer on the Web site in Beijing. Although she has only participated for half a year, she has experienced a lot.

She begins every morning by checking for any new information about the lost children she is helping to find.

"A boy around three or four years old was just lost on Anlelin Road, Fengtai District. Nearby volunteers: Please help us gather information and register this boy's need for assistance on our Web site," the morning announcement says.

Such requests from crying parents are a daily occurrence for the group, Yimiyangguang says. "I have a one-year-old son and the whole family dotes on him. Perhaps that is why I can imagine how these parents must feel," she says.

There are about 300 to 400 volunteers in the Beijing Group. Their main tasks are to watch for children on the street and photograph them when possible.

"We upload the children's pictures on our Web site and hope to find more clues to connect them with their families," Yimiyang-

guang says.

"It's not enough to just count on luck, the hard work of hundreds of volunteers all over the country makes hope possible - no matter how slim the chances," she says.

Much of her effort goes into comparing photos submitted by parents and volunteers. "If over 80 percent of volunteers in our group believe the pictures of the child match up, we will inform the parents," she says.

"Every detail about a lost child is important: things like birthmarks, accents and a description of their hometown," she says.

In March, one boy begging in Yuyuantan Park matched up with the description of a lost child whose parents were looking for him.

The parents had reported that their son had a broken palm print on his left hand, so volunteers tried every means to check, Yimiyangguang said.

"We worried the boy was controlled by kidnappers, which is quite common among street children in Beijing. In order to avoid alerting the criminals, we brought a bag of chips for the child and used the chance



Volunteers teach parents to keep their children safe from kidnappers.

to wipe his hands to check his print," she says.

Even though a paternity test proved that the child was not the one they were looking for, he was still rescued by the police.

But not every case is a success story. Volunteer work has also brought Yimiyangguang disappointment.

"Many question our identities and insist this is none of our business. So many children are lost, and only a few can ever find their families. It makes me feel powerless and sad," she says.

Long-term cooperation

Zhang said that since the grassroots force to combat human trafficking has received semi-official blessing, her focus now is how to end the problem permanently.

To identify child victims more quickly, the ministry has started compiling on April 29 a nationwide DNA database by collecting blood samples from rescued children and parents who lost their children, which was one of the site's suggestions.

Besides, "the police now open a case immediately after a child is reported missing. In the past, families had to wait 24 hours to make a report," Du Hangwei, director-general of Criminal

Investigation Department in the Ministry of Public Security, says.

"We hope to set up a long-term cooperation with these grassroots investigators to get more clues and suggestions from the public," he says.

The ministry provided a high speed server to the Web site, which now has a special column on cracking down human trafficking.

Now, the Web site urges that buyers should be punished more severely than kidnappers. "They are the root of the problem: As long as there is a market, some people will always take the risk of abducting kids," Zhang says.

Volunteers strength in numbers

Zhang Baoyan, director of Baby Come Home, opened the Web site two years ago to help parents find their missing children.

Zhang, from Tonghua, Jilin Province, said she became concerned for the children after she read an investigative report about human trafficking and the miserable lives of the missing children.

"Many parents with missing children were fighting the battle alone. If their search led to the wrong child, they would give up. But maybe the child they found was one someone else was seeking. They needed a platform to share information," Zhang says.

When she opened the Baby Come Home office in 2007, there were already commercial Web sites for publishing missing person announcements. However, the average cost for an announcement was around 300

to 500 yuan per year.

"For most parents, finding missing children is a long-term and high-cost job. Most of them have already spent 50,000 to 60,000 yuan. That's why I decided this part of their search should be free, both to post and get information," Zhang says.

Today, more than 2,000 parents are using Baby Come Home to search for their missing children, and about 500 children are looking for their families.

The Web site uses a unique interactive method to help find missing children.

"When parents register the details about their missing child on the Web site, as many as 10,000 volunteers in 50 cities join the search," Zhang says.

The current domestic route of human trafficking is to take people from the less - developed

west to the developed east. Boys are usually sold to families that lack a son, and girls are pushed into the sex industry or grow up to be sold as "wives" to men who cannot pay a hefty dowry.

"Many people have misgivings about filing a report since the police ask for their real name. However, when they give us the information, our volunteers can file reports using the Web site as a name," she says.

In this way, the Web site has provided 30 useful clues about missing children to the police in the last two years. So far, Baby Come Home has helped reunite 58 families.

"The rate of success is only 1.5 percent, which is much lower than my original expectation. But that is already a great achievement in the eyes of the police," Zhang says.

Brief Facts

Every year, 2,000 to 3,000 reports of women and children being sold are investigated by authorities. Some experts estimate 10,000 to 20,000 women and children are abducted annually.

The police have rescued 447 children in 360 human-trafficking cases during a nationwide campaign to crack down on human trafficking from April 9 through May 25.



Baby Come Home has a network of 10,000 volunteers in 50 cities.

Photos by Baby Come Home



"Gimmick" has become synonymous with TV marketing.

By Venus Lee

TV shopping is the land of gimmicks: most viewers agree the advertised devices and pills lack credibility. But the medium has huge development potential as a convenient shopping stop.

Although China's TV shopping industry has been eager to turn the page and separate itself from a history of shams, it has a long way to go before it can regain consumer confidence.

Some domestic TV shopping companies are taking the initiative to discipline themselves before the entire industry collapses, and before the government leaves them no choice.

CFP Photo

As seen on TV! Sort of ...

If it sounds too good to be true

"The tug of war with the company was a waste of energy and money."

Wang Lian, 46, a housewife, has been disappointed – and almost disfigured – by the oral beauty products she bought through a TV shopping program.

The product was named after the South Korean historical TV drama *The Jewel in the Palace* and was claimed to remove freckles and wrinkles within one month. Customers who were unsatisfied with the project were eligible for spot treatment after that.

Within several days after she began using it, many red pocks emerged on Wang's face and yellow brown pockmarks made her face ever worse. "The products cost me about 4,000 yuan. After I phoned the salesman and asked to return the product, he shut off his cell phone. After that, the company vanished," she said.

Feng Bin, 31, an office worker, was a victim of products adver-

tised on TV. He ordered a seemingly cost-effective mobile phone through the hotline provided at the bottom of the screen. However, the product he received was not what he ordered, and there was no invoice enclosed. Although the company promised to exchange his purchase after many inquiries, he ended up stuck in a cycle of endless waiting because the company forever said it would arrive "in several days".

"I lodged a complaint against the company at the local consumer association, but they told me they would not handle the case because I had no contract and no invoice. The tug of war with the company was a waste of energy and money," he said.

According to the Chinese Consumers' Association, complaints against marketing, especially against TV and online



TV infomercials are always exaggerated.

marketing, account for more than 25 percent of all filings. Statistics from the China Electronic Chamber of Commerce also showed complaints against TV marketing in the first quarter rose by 102 percent from a year earlier. Only March 15, World Consumers Rights Day, there were as many as 1,700 complaints against TV marketing among nearly 4,000 shopping cases.

Industry must reign in itself

"The self-discipline system will force the company to open up and stand behind its products. It can also give the public a chance to examine."

According to the State Administration of Radio and Television (SARFT), only 10 TV shopping companies are approved, but more than 100 companies are engaged in TV sales. "Behind the glittering facade of TV shopping, the whole industry is a mess," said Wang Kai, a spokesman for Acorn International, a famous TV shopping platform.

"Actually the industry was tainted by those bogus companies and those small and medium-sized companies that were eager for quick success and instant benefit," he said. Exaggerating function, false discounts, film and TV stars or pseudo experts are common tricks. "As for people seeking an exchange or return, the bogus companies always have ways of stopping you. You may go on

hold forever or be billed for handling fees," he said.

The result has been that most consumers condemn the entire industry instead of thinking about the individual company that was a disgrace. "Self-discipline is needed urgently," he said.

Several famous domestic TV shopping companies have started an image clean-up campaign. Acorn International handed over 2 million yuan to the Beijing Consumers Association (BCA) as an advance to form an indemnity foundation this April, the first time a TV shopping agency cooperated to create quality assurance. "Once they have a problem with product quality, consumers can lodge a complaint with BCA to ask for compensation. The BCA

money can be used to compensate the consumer if all else fails," Wang said.

The indemnity in advance system can also compel the companies to improve product quality and service. "The system will force the company to open up and stand behind its products. It can also give the public a chance to examine," said Huang Guoxiong, deputy chairman of the China Commercial Economy Association.

Other domestic TV shopping giants have been making changes to their operations the last two months. Hunan-based Happigo issued a Quality Control Handbook to standardize its case-handling and Jiangsu-based Haoxianggou invited related organizations to supervise its products and service.



Digital products are some of the most frequently sold.

TV stations share responsibility

"Once the TV station restricts its broadcasting, most problems can be controlled."

"Although 'gimmick' defines TV marketing, the stations are just as at fault for their irresponsible broadcasting practices that allow companies to push fake and inferior products," Huang Guoxiong said.

According to the Report on Development of China's TV Shopping 2008-2009, issued by CSM Media Research, there were 93,000 hours of TV shopping programs broadcast in the country in 2007, 82 percent more than the previous year. However, the programs were not aired during prime time slots. Viewers were mainly middle-aged men and old people, most of whom were female. Out of them, 10.5 percent had purchased

the items advertised.

"TV is the driving force in getting these products sold. We should treat the TV station like a store – it should be punished if it sells or facilitates the sale of fake or inferior products," Huang said. "Once the TV station restricts its broadcasting, most problems can be controlled."

Indeed, since the SARFT and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce jointly issued regulations to ban the broadcasting of medicine, medical appliance, breast augmentation, weight-reducing and heightening TV ads at the end of 2006, most complaints against these kinds of marketing have tapered off.

Shopping laws must cover TV

"One is the TV Shopping Industry Standards and another is TV Shopping Program Standards. The two will make up for the deficiencies in the industry."

The TV shopping market accounts for less than 1 percent of the country's total retail sales, according to statistics from Analysis International. "Although the low output value suggests huge potential, the lack of consumer confidence is crippling the industry," said Zeng Jingping, head of China's TV Shopping Industry Standards Drafting Group.

The government is working on legislating the industry, and the standards are expected to be published within the year. "One is the TV Shopping Industry Standards and another is TV Shopping Program Standards. The two will make up for the deficiencies in the industry and make clear which administrators are responsible for overseeing TV sales," Zeng said.

The TV Shopping Industry Standards will issue concrete rules for admittance to the industry, and for how the businesses may operate. "For example, they will have to offer free returns and indemnity, keep a record of which TV stars endorse their products and verify the identity of 'experts' who are employed by the program," he said. The length of a sales block will probably be limited to 30 minutes, and fake images, experts or pundits and deceptive marking will get any ad banned.

While the TV Shopping Program Standards makes it clear that most responsibility will fall to SART, it will also end the current ambiguity in power and supervision, which means TV stations cannot escape responsibility for airing false gimmicks.

Gaokao, no longer a test toward good fortune



Each year, over 10 million high school graduates take part in Gaokao, the National Higher Education Entrance Examination. IC Photo

Considered a life-changing opportunity, Gaokao, the country's two-day national college entrance exam saw a steep drop in its number of test takers this year – the first decrease in seven years.

Has the country's education system, long considered a bubble, finally burst? Why have nearly a million people passed up the opportunity to take the test?

Steep drop in numbers

About 10.2 million people sat for the exam this week. Among them were 7.5 million high school graduates. Jiang Gang, deputy director of the Education Ministry's college student office, said 8.34 million students graduated from high school this year, which means 840,000 did not register for the exam.

Regional figures for Gaokao applications also show a decline. In Shandong Province, there was a drop of 100,000 to 700,000,

Xinhua News Agency reported. Shanghai saw a nearly 20 percent decrease to 83,000. The same story was repeated across half of the provinces.

The figures seem to suggest the exam is no longer the automatic ticket to a better life it used to be. The prospects for office employees have dimmed, and parents are more likely to encourage their children to take up a trade and go to a vocational school for training.



Parents say thanks to their kids for working hard after the national exam.

Photo by Cui Jun

Gaokao's story

Since the resumption of the national college entrance exam in 1977, millions of people have entered colleges or universities through this test and have created better lives for themselves.

Most people consider Gaokao the best chance they have to transform their lives, akin to the civil service exams in ancient times.

The college entrance exam spans three days in early June and tests students' ability in Chinese, math and one foreign language, usually English. There are also exams in biology, chemistry and physics, as well as history, geography and political education.

abroad, with 3,000 sitting US university exams in Beijing last year.

A visit to the Beijing New Fairway School, an English training institution, found over 30 students in its IELTS (International English Language Testing System) training class were graduates of regular Beijing high schools. These students said they gave up Gaokao and instead were preparing to take the IELTS, which would help them qualify for college admission overseas.

(Agencies)

"Ideal" educational system

By Huang Daohen

Benjamin Snow, a foreign teacher in town, shared what his Chinese students constantly tell him they do not like about their education: the big focus on Gaokao.

"They don't like it that much, and that it goes beyond critical thinking and creativity. They said they found it a very stifling experience, filled with long days spent on boring books and lectures," said Snow, who has been teaching English for the past year, mostly to high school and college graduates.

The information and skills they learn for years are dictated by what they expect to appear on the college entrance exam. "They told me their lives up until the end of high school have been almost exclusively focused on preparing for that test," he said.

Snow has asked each batch of students to describe what a better secondary school system would look like, and here are some striking trends:

– Smaller classes and more choices in the classes they take. They also want to be able to forgo an academic class or two to pursue the arts, such as singing, dancing or painting.

– More opportunities for independent work. They want to do some of their own research and discuss the results in class. They don't want to be fed ideas.

– More connection to the real world. They want to have a chance to do community service near their schools, such as tutoring a child or helping take care of the elderly. They also want to take some classes outside school.

– A chance to develop socially. They want to join school clubs and sports, but they also want more free time to spend with their friends and to attend school dances, and for dating to be allowed on campus.

Reasons behind latest development

Grim job market

Officials with the education ministry do not agree with media reports that say pressure in the job market, caused by the global economic downturn, led to the Gaokao's drop in popularity. According to a survey by the *China Youth Daily*, more and more parents and their children think it is becoming increasingly difficult for college graduates to find jobs in a fiercely competitive society, and it is time to rethink career strategies.

For a long time, people believed that "being selected by a university through Gaokao is like getting a good job in advance." Li Dajun, a retiree from a state-owned enterprise, told the paper. "Once I graduated from college, I went straight to a job in my company. At that time, I didn't even have to do any job-hunting."

"But this year when my son

graduated from Beijing Geely University, it was very difficult for him to find any job, never mind a good job," Li said.

Poor economic condition

Tuition fees in universities have grown hand-in-hand with the country's economic fortunes. From a few hundred yuan in 1989, school fees now average 6,000 yuan a year. Incomes, however, have lagged behind.

The government began to reform higher education in the 1990s. It adopted policies to help relieve the financial burden on families, such as awarding state-level scholarships, but tuition fees are still beyond what most homes can afford.

Yu Haiqiong, a senior high school student in Chongqing, dropped out of school this year and went to the coastal province of Zhejiang to start making money. "I really want to continue

my education," she said, "but I don't have that option because my family can't afford the cost of higher education. I must earn money as soon as possible."

A poor economic situation has become a crucial factor in many students' choices. Some were not willing to gamble away four years and thousands of yuan if they were not assured of a good job after graduation.

The government has supported the continuous hike in tuition fees, expecting the money to go toward the construction of new school buildings and the hiring of good teachers. But the reality is that many universities have become saddled with debts and are churning out below-average graduates just to keep tuition money flowing.

Study overseas

More and more children from wealthy families are studying

Bullish or challenging?

Hot money ready to pounce on market



George Soros speaking at Shanghai's Fudan University last Sunday, saying that he believes China will be the first to recover from the economic downturn.
IC Photo

By Huang Daohen

The worst is behind us? Many are optimistic about China's economic recovery despite the current economic downturn and surge in global market liquidity. But these conditions have caused a surge of "hot money" into Hong Kong, gateway to the mainland.

Is this kind of long-term investment betraying too much faith in the local economy? Opinions are divided over the hot money, which still sits in the bank — waiting for a project worthy of investment.

Spurring global recovery

The large influx of hot money into Hong Kong began with a very optimistic view of the mainland economy.

George Soros, founder of the Quantum Fund, said during a recent trip that China will be the first country to recover from the global financial crisis.

Addressing Shanghai's Fudan University last Sunday, the US hedge fund investor said he believes China's economy would recover and grow faster than expected. "Chinese banking has benefited from being isolated from the global financial system and is in better shape than the international banking system," he said.

Soros cited the Chinese government's capital control as a

reason why financial institutions have been left unscathed by the crisis. "When the government says lend, banks lend. This puts China in a better position to recover from the recession," he said.

He also predicted that China's recovery will have a positive effect on the world stock market, saying "China is going to be a positive force in the world and the market, and as a consequence, its power and influence are likely to grow."

Echoing Soros, the World Bank said Monday that China's growth would help pull the world out of the current economic slump, Xinhua reported.

With Chinese growth in the first quarter of 2009 exceeding most expectations, World Bank

president Robert Zoellick said China could act as a catalyst for a global economic resurgence.

"Any forecast in this environment is hazardous, but I think China is likely to surprise on the upside," Zoellick said.

"By and large [China's growth] has not only been a stabilizing force, but a force that will pull the system [out of its downturn]," he said.

A latest survey from Barclays Capital shows investors are very optimistic about the prospects for economic growth in Asia. Almost 58 percent of the respondents said capital flow in Asian emerging economies will exceed those of Latin America and Eastern Europe during the next three months.

Hot money at the gates

Hong Kong has become a haven for hot money, Joseph Yam, chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) said when he spoke to the Legislative Council Financial Affairs Panel on May 21.

The Hong Kong stock market (HKSE) is awash with foreign capital, Yam said. Hot money inflows began to accelerate after March, and reached extremely high levels mid-May. The effect was striking: the Hang Seng Index, the HKSE's blue chip tracking index, increased by 2,651 points to

19,000, the best performance for that month since 1977.

Yam attributed this to Hong Kong's role as an outpost of the mainland economy. "A relatively sound monetary system and access to the mainland economy are making Hong Kong a refuge for foreign capital. Since the outbreak of the international financial crisis in September last year, foreign capital has continued to flow into Hong Kong," Yam said.

Hong Kong's hot money flows in from around the world.

These cash assets are largely controlled by hedge funds and investment banks, which play a significant role in driving up the market, he said.

The latest Citibank research report pointed out that, in the past six weeks, the average weekly inflow of funds into Asia, especially Hong Kong, peaked at levels not seen since the market was running wild in 2007.

Some analysts estimate that US \$500 billion (3.4 trillion yuan) of hot money has poured into Hong Kong during the past year.

Worries over capital influx

But many ordinary people still worry about the inflow of hot money and are cautious about investment, Zhao Xiao, an economics professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, said.

In the long term, fundamentals of the mainland economy are still seen as questionable and investors' confidence has not fully recovered, Zhao said. "Many see the current market activity as pure speculation."

Hot money drove up more than Hong Kong's stock market: Housing prices also rose 10 percent. Data released last week shows the number of houses on the market rebounded in May, up 38 percent from March and 2 percent from the same period

last year.

There was a 28.9 percent increase in sales over last May and a 17.2 percent increase over April. This all points to signs of a jump in Hong Kong's real estate market, Zhao said.

A recent Credit Suisse report pointed out that the current price rise in the Hong Kong real estate market may not be sustainable, as it is out of line with GDP growth.

Similarly, Shenzhen, adjacent to Hong Kong and the main channel of inflow and outflow of investment into and from the Chinese mainland, saw a hike on the region's housing prices and stock market as due to the influx of hot money.

The pressure of hot money is causing financial changes in

Hong Kong. Joseph Yam said the continuous inflow of overseas funds will promote inflation and a cause a bubble in Hong Kong's asset prices.

The Hang Seng is likely to go above 20,000 points using this hot money. However, uncertainty about the flow of hot money is causing alarm. "Once the flow slows down, Hong Kong stocks may face a serious downturn," Yam said.

However, Zhao said hot money could change into long-term investment if a country's economy stabilizes. "The government should improve its environment (for investment) to encourage new capital to stay in China as long as possible," he said.

Beijing Subway complains of music copyright fees



Passengers support the subway's move, saying background music relaxes passengers waiting in long queues.

CFP Photo

By Zhang Dongya

The Beijing Subway Company began piping in music in subway stations last month to make waiting passengers feel more relaxed. The Music Copyright Society of China (MCSC) announced soon after that it would collect royalty fees for the music, but the subway company complained the cost was excessive.

Beijing Subway tested the new idea at two stations on Line 5 beginning last year, the *Beijing Morning Post* reported. When negotiations with the MCSC ensued, the copyright society said Beijing Subway first had to get a permit for its music lineup, then pay the fees depending on the area the music covers.

The subway company deemed the cost exorbitant and negotiated

with the MCSC for a lower price, if not free use of the music.

Music played in stations is mostly classical and folk music. Thus far, at least 84 subway stations have piped in music and 20 more stations will follow suit within the year, including Guomao and Andingmen.

This month, stations on Line 2 such as Chongwenmen, Xuanwumen and Qianmen joined the initiative. Employees of Chongwenmen station said they received two music CDs that contain 30 songs. One CD is of local classics and the other, popular foreign violin and piano pieces, including Richard Clayderman's music.

Stations play music in five blocks throughout the day, from 5:30 am to 22:30 pm, but not

during rush hours. Each segment lasts an hour and a half.

Most commuters welcomed the music, and some people said it need variety.

According to a survey conducted by Beijing Subway before it implemented the plan, 90 percent of passengers want music, among whom 50 percent prefer light music. The study also received suggestions on playing time and volume.

Subway stations are narrow and usually crowded, which raises people's tension level. Music can help ease passengers' anxiety and make their trip more pleasant, a Beijing Subway spokesman said.

The company is continuing to collect feedback from the public and to upgrade related equipment.

Background

The collection of royalty fees from KTVs began two years ago, putting the issue of copyright protection under the spotlight. Whether the fees are right or wrong has been hotly debated.

According to the Copyright Law of China, a non-profit organization should oversee copyright infringements with the authority granted by copyright owners.

The MCSC, a non-profit organization, has been given authority by some record companies and singers to safeguard their rights and interests. The society says the National Copyright Administration has given it power to collect fees from various entities, including KTVs.

Debate of the week

Sichuan reopens nude beach

By Venus Lee

Sichuan Province's nude beach reopened to the public last Saturday, the first time since the government ordered it shut down in 2003. Some residents are unhappy with the latest development.

Located in Hongya county's mountainous area, the Hongya Forest Nude Beach opened in 2002 but was closed a year later. It now operates under the name Heaven Bodies Nude Bathing Center, but like before, it is a magnet for debate on whether nude bathing is a natural urge or a licentious act.

Supporters see the beach as a way to boost the province's tourism industry. "Although rare, nude beaches can be found in other parts of China and have proven to be popular with naturists from across the world. (This beach) will allow the county to attract more tourists," Liu Chang, director of the local bureau, said.

"What's more, people nowadays are under so much pressure they need a place to relax. Nude swimming is not a bad option," he said.

Some netizens say the media is just hyping up the story.

Meanwhile, critics label the beach's patrons as immoral. "Bathing nude in scenic spots desecrates the beauty of the surroundings. It's an immoral practice and should be discouraged," Wang Yue, a tourist guide, said.

People in the middle ground say there's no need to call such a practice immoral and licentious. "It's a bit of a jump for conservative-minded Chinese people to follow the more carefree practices abroad. But nude bathing, to remain marketable to tourists, still needs long-term planning and careful administration to make sure it doesn't fall out of popularity within a few years," Yang Bo, a professor, said.

Netizens nail CCTV on faked news

The state-run China Central Television (CCTV) came under the spotlight again after a netizen found faked news in one of its programs.

In the national news program Network News, CCTV had an episode on the first day of the university entrance examinations.

A sharp-eyed user bbc1234 noted that at just past the one minute mark, there was a bus coming towards the camera with the words: "63 days until the 2008 Olympics!" bbc1234 said that the CCTV reporters were using the 2008 news film but talking about it as if this was 2009.

After the news story was broadcast, viewers and netizens raised doubts through various channels. "This shows that our country is deeply involved in fakery, for why else would the accurate Network News be showing fake news! Sad and sorry!"

(By Huang Daohen)

Comment

MCSC not the only decision-maker

The MCSC is a non-government organization that is in charge of overseeing to copyright infringements. Though it has been granted authority by the National Copyright Administration to collect royalty fees from KTVs, it should still conduct itself as a non-government body.

Generally speaking, the copyrights of old classics belong to record companies. Since the companies and singers have authorized the copyright society to safeguard their rights and interests, it should

only charge fees after discussions with the companies. Theoretically, all the fees collected by the society belong to the companies and singers, except for a small sum for the society's operating expenses.

How much the society should collect from the subway company is not stated by law, and should be negotiated by the two parties. Although the society has standard fees, it should relax these a bit when it comes to the subway company, a public body.

— Wang Yu,
lawyer at Gaobo Longhua Law Office

Not a commercial purpose

The subway, as part of the public transportation system, is a non-profit operation. It is playing music for the public's well-being, which is different from restaurants or KTVs using music for a commercial purpose. The society should treat the cases differently.

The society can also deal with businesses according to standard procedure, but adjust their regulations for subway stations.

— Jt-lee, netizen from Guangdong Province

Copyright law is progressive

Respect for copyright and intellectual property rights reflects a society's level of development.

People who complain about the MCSC's fees should change their way of thinking.

Though some classics are called the "common heritage of mankind," laws state their copyright should be protected and that any use, especially for commercial purposes, should be charged certain fees.

— Vivian Sun,
student,
Tianjin University

Slim chance of survival for last missing US mountaineer

By Han Manman

Rescuers are still struggling through snowstorms and strong winds to find mountaineer Micah Dash after an avalanche buried a team of three US climbers in Sichuan province last week. But rescuers say the last missing climber's chance of survival is slim.

The bodies of companions Jonathan Copp and Wade Johnson were recovered last Saturday and this Monday.

Two bodies found

The remains of Wade Johnson, 24, a filmmaking intern at Sender Films, a Colorado-based adventure film company, were found among avalanche debris on Mount Gongga, Sichuan's highest peak.

Copp's body was found in the same location two days earlier. Copp, 35, was a multi-awarded climber and renowned in the international mountaineering community for his many first ascents, including summits in Pakistan,

Alaska and South America.

The Americans were scheduled to begin their climb on April 30 and return May 28, according to a plan they submitted to Sichuan authorities as part of local climbing regulations.

Friends reported them missing to the US consulate in Chengdu on June 4, and a rescue operation was launched immediately, said Lin Li, secretary-general of the Sichuan Mountaineering Association.

"(Copp's) body was found on an ice sheet at an elevation of 4,000 meters," he said.

Two US teams have joined the local effort to locate Dash, said Robb Shurr, a Colorado-based spokesman for the separate search operation organized by the climbers' family and friends.

Lin said nasty weather conditions have hampered the rescue work, and that the Chinese and US rescuers will consider withdrawing to avoid a possible ava-

lanche if they do not find Dash in the coming days.

Friends set up mourning sites

On Monday, Johnson's parents, Bruce and Susan Johnson, issued a statement saying, "We are devastated by the loss of our son Wade. Our grief is profound as the reality of his loss sweeps over us. Yet he was a boundless joy for us as his parents."

"We are comforted by the fact that Wade lived and died doing the things that he loved. It has been transformative to experience the outpouring of support and love from literally all corners of the world."

The climbers' friends and colleagues have set up mourning sites online, on Facebook and other Web sites.

Adventurefilm.org, an adventure film community to which Copp and Johnson belonged, provides updates on the Sichuan search. Within three days, it

received 23,000 visits from people in a hundred countries.

"Copp had boundless energy, dancing late into the night with friends and still getting up early to do yoga or go for a run or a climb," a friend wrote on the site, adding he was a world-class climber and the climb for him was "bigger than life."

Climbers' dreamed mountain

Mount Gongga forms part of a series of steep and snowy ranges where the Tibet-Qinghai plateau meets the Sichuan basin. It is the highest mountain in Sichuan and one of the seven highest mountains in China open to the public. Only 24 people have successfully reached Gongga's summit; 22 have died on the mountain.

Two other US mountaineers, Christine Boskoff and Charles Fowler, died in late 2006 while climbing further west in Sichuan.

Photos provided by Dailycamera.com



Wade Johnson



Micah Dash



Jonathan Copp

Foreigners say 'I do' the traditional Chinese way



Foreigners have a traditional Chinese wedding, rare today even among locals nowadays.

Photo provided by The Beijing News

By Zhang Dongya

Nine couples, each made up of a Chinese and a foreign partner, participated in a group Chinese wedding ceremony at Mercure Hotel in Shijingshan District last Saturday.

The foreign brides and grooms hailing from the US, Italy and Brazil, wore traditional Chinese dress and chaplets and took sedan chairs to the venue – a rare sight even among locals in this age.

About 20 couples signed up last month to participate in the ceremony organized by newspaper *The*

Beijing News. Nine couples made it in after two rounds of elimination activities, which tested their teamwork and their knowledge of traditional Chinese wedding customs.

An expert on traditional Chinese wedding customs, Zhang Wanhong, gave a talk to the couples two weeks before the ceremony. "I've learned something new about traditional Chinese weddings, such as the groom should give the bride's family money envelopes so they would open the door to her house," said Minnesota native Dean Dick-

son, 24, who was marrying his girlfriend Zhu Danke.

On the wedding day, all the brides rode to the hotel in sedan chairs, held aloft by poles carried by eight people. The grooms waited, clothed in red wedding dress. The ceremony proceeded according to traditional custom, including the partners doing kowtows and performing the "union of wine cups."

"I particularly enjoyed seeing my wife come out of her little mandrawn carriage, with a red veil over her face, and then having the

wedding master help me take her veil off and seeing my wife's beautiful face," Dickson said. "We were having a lot of fun kicking apples, bowing and kneeling to each other, and drinking the special wedding drink," he said.

Zhu said her husband appeared more excited than she was about the ceremony. "It was a breath of fresh air and so much different than anything I've seen performed where I'm from," Dickson said.

The couple had more to celebrate that day when they won a six-

day trip to Bali, Indonesia, courtesy of the organizer.

Dickson and Zhu married officially last August, but did not have a wedding ceremony until last week. They plan to hold another wedding party in Dickson's hometown when they go to the US.

This is the fifth year Beijing News has organized a group traditional wedding ceremony, but it is the first that includes foreigners. The company hopes the annual event will renew interest in traditional customs.

Pakistan appeals for help for internal refugees



A young child, displaced due to the Pakistan Army's offensive against the Taliban in the Swat Valley, rests after collecting food rations at the Chota Lahore relief camp.

By Han Manman

"It's hard for Pakistanis to ask for money. Even though we value dignity and self-esteem, we really need help this time," Pakistani ambassador Masood Khan said last Sunday, appealing to China's international community for generosity to the thousands of refugees displaced in the South Asian country's anti-terrorism operations.

The embassy held a fundraising bazaar June 7, in which they raised an unexpected half a million yuan.

Pakistan needs help

A web posting titled "It's time for us to help Pakistanis" widely circulated among Chinese forums last week. About 160,000 displaced Pakistanis are now living in relief camps, reports say.

The posting said the Chinese people should remember Pakistan's concern and generous financial assistance following the Sichuan earthquake last year. It said the time has come for the Chinese to help the Pakistanis get through tough times.

"Pakistanis are our friends. They are facing serious difficulties and they deserve our attention and support," a netizen said.

The ambassador, in a recent press conference in Beijing, said the country needed food, shelter, medicine, water and sanitation. But "cash donations are what the displaced families need most," Khan said.

Pakistan is carrying out military operations against Taliban terrorists in the Swat Valley and other parts of the North West Frontier Province. The offensive has resulted in the dislocation of more than 2 million people.

"Despite relying mainly on

our own resources, we need help from the international community," Khan said, adding that Pakistan has always considered China a "family member," so "it's easier to ask for help from China than other countries."

Food and handicrafts bazaar

The embassy-sponsored bazaar last Sunday featured traditional Pakistani food and handicrafts.

That day, the embassy on Dongzhimen resembled a small market: There were dozens of booths selling local snacks, beverages and handicrafts. But the conspicuous donation box reminded everyone the purpose for the event.

"Many customers visited our booth, we made at least 2,000 yuan within a few hours," said Maa Zaman, wife of a Pakistan diplomat, who sold handicrafts.

Up to 5,000 people attended the bazaar, including members of the local Pakistani community and officials from other embassies. Most of the visitors were Chinese nationals, the embassy said.

Xie Tianyi, 5, said he wanted to help Pakistani children flee from danger. The preschooler, who came with his parents, donated 500 yuan.

The event raised 500,000 yuan through donations and product sales. The money will be sent to the Pakistan Prime Minister's Special Fund for Victims of Terrorism, Khan said.

He also thanked the Chinese government for giving US \$1 million (6.8 million yuan) in cash, as well as US \$4.4 million in relief materials such as large tents, generators and water filtration plants.



Maa Zaman (left), wife of a Pakistan diplomat, sold handicrafts in the bazaar.

Pakistan's refugee crisis

Khan said Pakistan has devised a plan to solve its internal displacement problem. The federal government has allocated 1 billion rupees (84.7 million yuan) for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and has deployed trained officers to coordinate relief operations and set up humanitarian hubs, Khan said.

But frustration and disappointment is widespread among the refugees, most of whom were evacuated during the worst of

the fighting between government forces and Taliban militants.

The Pakistani army entered the Swat Valley more than a month ago, after the Taliban undermined the peace deal brokered earlier this year.

The army's spokesman estimated it will take at least another two months before the Valley is cleared of militants.

According to Pakistani media, major populated areas and roads leading to the valley have been rid of Taliban resistance, but security forces are still hunting top Taliban commanders.

How to make a donation

Cash donations can be made to the following bank account:

Bank of China - Head Office

1 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng District

Account Number: 01672868093001

Swift Code: BKCHCNBJ

Donations received through this account will be transferred to the Pakistan Prime Minister's Special Fund for Victims of Terrorism.

US: We will not shelter corrupt Chinese officials

By Jin Zhu

Two former managers of the Bank of China were sentenced in the US on May 6 to more than 20 years imprisonment for charges of racketeering, money laundering, transporting stolen property and visa fraud. The verdict is an example of success in Sino-American law enforcement cooperation, the US embassy said Tuesday.

"The recent sentence shows there is no safe haven for any person who intends to escape legal sanctions by fleeing national boundaries. No matter where or how long criminals hide, they will be brought to justice through international cooperation," Don Washington, a public affairs officer at the embassy, said.

The criminal conspiracy began in 1991 when Xu Chaofan and Xu Guojun approved phony loans and money transfers by using their position as managers at the Bank of China. They then laundered huge sums in Hong Kong, Canada and the US.

"Since much of the evidence to prove they embezzled public funds was in China, the public prosecutor in the US put in a lot of time and energy to prove the laundered money was illegally profited," Washington said.

With the help of evidence submitted by the Chinese government, Xu Chaofan and Xu Guojun were sentenced to 25 and 22 years in prison, respectively.

"All the embezzled public funds recovered in the US, up to US \$3.35 million (22.9 million yuan), were returned to China in 2003. Most of the defrauded US \$485 million have been squandered. Some cash and jewelry found when they were arrested has been confiscated and we hope to return it to the Bank of China in the near future," Washington said.

The US in the past refused to extradite criminals on the pretext that the death penalty would be given to them in China. But in recent years, the US has taken a clear stand on how to deal with corrupt Chinese officials seeking haven in the country.

"The recent verdict is a sign of stronger cooperation in law enforcement between China and the US," Jin Canrong, deputy dean of the School of International Relations at the Renmin University of China, said.

The US government does not wish to offend popular sentiments, Jin said, referring to the Chinese public's contempt for corrupt officials who seek to live off ill-gotten wealth in the States.

China's first sommelier competition starts this week

By Annie Wei

The qualifying round of China's first national sommelier competition kicked off simultaneously at The Westin hotels in Beijing and Shanghai on Wednesday.

The Junior Sommelier Competition for people under age 25 is open to Chinese nationals who have been working in wine service in restaurants, bars, lounges and other food and beverage establishments in the country for at least a year. Foreign participants must have worked in the same industry for five consecutive years.

Sommeliers are employees who order and maintain the wines sold in restaurants and usually have extensive knowledge about wine and food pairings.

"There is an increasing demand

for wine professionals here. I notice that Chinese people are drinking wine more often, especially in Chinese restaurants, but they do not know much about wines and wine pairing," said Tommy Lam, the competition's organizer and professor of the wine program at the Tianjin University of Commerce.

Lam said he hopes the contest will give people in the domestic food and beverage industry a chance to improve their own skills and knowledge, while those who emerge at the top will see how they compare against international professionals.

He also hopes the competition will attract bartenders, other professionals working with wines and liquor and employers who want to improve their staffs' expertise.

The event is being judged by

international and local experts, based on regulations from the Association de La Sommelierie Internationale (ASI), an international sommelier association. The winner will represent China at the 1st ASI Contest of the Best Sommelier of Asia-Oceania, in Japan, next month.

Leo Liu, operation manager of Sureno at the Opposite House, joined the competition with another eight candidates in town.

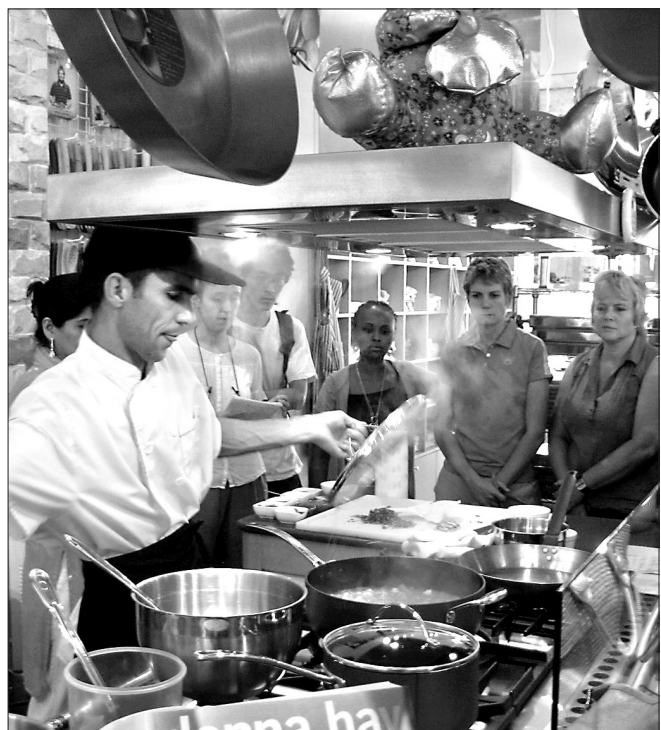
Liu said that his company encouraged employees to participate in events like that and the procedure followed international standards.

"The questionnaires are quite difficult," Liu said, "it involves in knowledge of small wine production areas."



The organizers of the first Junior Sommelier Competition in China

Photo provided by Stacey Choe



Pakistani cooking taught at Magic Pantry

Photo by Yu Tingmei

Magic Pantry presents free cooking classes

By Annie Wei

The past few Sunday afternoons, people have flocked to Magic Pantry, a high-end kitchenware store in Nali Patio. What they were after? Free cooking classes.

Last Sunday, Magic Pantry teamed up with The Mughal's to give lessons on making chicken karahi, a traditional Pakistani dish.

The restaurant, also located in Nali Patio, is the only Pakistani dining place in town. It's known within the expat community for its sumptuous food and family-friendly atmosphere. Its owners, Samia Asif and her husband, have been in Beijing since 2000 and The Mughal's is their third restaurant in the city.

Hakin Khan, the restaurant's chef who conducted last week's cooking class, worked in several international hotels and restaurants in Pakistan before joining the restaurant in Sanlitun.

Cecile Yu, a freelance producer who attended the class for the first time, said learning to make a Pakistani dish was "fun."

"Every participant had the opportunity to try the food at the end and it tasted good," she said. It probably didn't hurt that she won the raffle draw for a free meal at The Mughal's.

Pantry Magic will continue to organize free cooking classes in tandem with other restaurants associations in Beijing. Its class this Sunday is titled "a taste of Hunan," presented together with

The Hutong, an exchange center located in a courtyard that provides a venue for meetings, workshops and club events.

Chen Long, a Hunan-born chef who cooks at The Hutong, will teach this weekend's participants how to prepare easy yet healthy spicy Hunanese food. Her menu includes cucumber with garlic dressing and sliced beef in hot sauce served with asparagus and stir-fried mixed vegetables.

Magic Pantry

Where: D108, 1/F Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 13, 3-5 pm

Cost: Free

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Big Cultural Heritage Day celebrations

By Wang Yu

The country celebrates Cultural Heritage Day tomorrow, a holiday on the second Saturday of June created by the government in 2006. To mark the occasion this year, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Culture has prepared a series of events, including exhibitions, lectures and concerts.

Besides activities in Dongcheng, Xicheng and Chaoyang districts, there will also be events in suburban areas such as Shunyi, Huairou and Fangshan that will feature Old Beijing life.

The Xicheng Intangible Cultural Heritage Center is one of the main activity venues and among the most remarkable. Rebuilt from the Shengli Cinema during the Xisi era, it is the city's first exhibition center and contains several halls, each with its own theme.

Presentations on royal medication, carpet-making and needlework will take place on the center's second floor, where folk arts such as snuff bottle paintings are displayed.

Visitors will also find coir figures, traditional art figures made

of paper, adorned with Peking Opera apparel, with a ring of pig tail at the bottom. These characters stand on a copper plate and will move in tempo to how the plate is stroked.

Music and theater lovers can come here to listen to traditional music and xiangsheng performances.

Tomorrow and Sunday, there will be a huge show in Wangjing, Chaoyang, in which a hundred dancers will participate. It promises to be a fusion of sound, light and traditional paintings shown on a screen.

In Tongzhou canal tomorrow, actors will recreate an ancient scene of boatmen working. The canal is the start of the Beijing-Hangzhou Canal, which was built 700 years ago. The performance will be broadcast on eight television channels, including CCTV and BTv.

After the water show, audiences in Tongzhou can watch a dragon dance. Performers will travel through Zhangzhuang village, stop at tables to dance, before ending at the God of War Temple.



Culture heritage events will take place all over the city.

CFP Photo

More events

Exhibition of old things

Where: Chaoyang Cultural Center, 17 Jintai Xi Li, Chaoyang District

When: June 13-19

Cultural Heritage Day series (ancient music concert, cheongsam show,

painting exhibition)

Where: Beiding Taishan Empress Temple, Beiding, Xidatun, Chaoyang District

When: June 12-13

Lecture on folk literature

Where: Dongcheng Cultural Center, 111 Jiadaokou Dong

Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: June 13

Exhibition of old handicrafts

Where: Shunyi Cultural Center, 22 Guangming Nan Jie, Shunyi District

When: June 13

Sinology summer tours and camp

By Zheng Lu

The first Children's Sinology Training Camp last month garnered a lot of interest. Nearly 40 children, accompanied by their parents, participated in the event at the Chaoyang Temple in Huairou District and learned about tai chi and the tea ceremony.

This summer, there will be two sinology study tours that will take kids to places outside the city. The first tour, from July 12 to 19, will show participants around several cities in Yunnan Province, and they will stay at Sanhe Temple in Kunming. The other tour, which begins July 23, will feature eight days of sightseeing in temples and areas around Huangshan, Anhui province.

During the tour, the children will study *Dizigui* (Standards for Students), *The Analects*, or *The One-thousand-character Primer* for ways of singing, reading, explaining and discussing. Students and accompanying parents

will live in a temple and all their meals will be vegetarian.

Before meals, teachers will lead the participants in reading articles on gratefulness. In the evening, the students will play games and stage drama performances. This is a good chance for foreign children to make friends with the local youngsters, organizers say.

Parents who join the tour will have their own activities, such as a tea ceremony and classes on Zen theory. But young and old will have chances to interact in parent-and-children games.

The tour package for both children and adults costs 2,600 yuan per person. Organizers suggest participants be between six and thirteen years old, but older teens are welcome, as well as younger children if they come with a guardian.

Each tour is limited to 30 participants, and booking is on a first-come-first-served basis.



More parents want their children to be exposed to traditional culture.

CFP Photo

There will be a training camp in Beijing from August 8 to 22. The program, which costs 2,800 yuan, will include lessons on the classics, calligraphy, tai chi

and a trip outdoors. Participants will live in Chaoyang Temple. To book a place or to get more information, call 5163 8241 or 5163 8249.

Public bikes enjoy loyal following

By Zheng Lu

A man surnamed Gao hops on a subway from his home near Anhui Bridge, Chaoyang District, then travels the last kilometer to work in Wangjing on a public bicycle.

"I rent a bike near the subway station then return it to another station near my work, and vice-versa when I go home," he said.

Gao is among hundreds of office employees who follow the same routine. Late last month, Fangzhou Company, one of the city's biggest bicycle rental companies, began a one-month free rental program, and many people signed up. A woman surnamed

Zhang has enjoyed the experience and said she plans to continue using public bikes even after the month is up.

The majority of Fangzhou's customers are workers, followed by tourists, the company said.

It has a thousand bicycle rental stations around the city — near residential communities, subway stops and tourist spots. A good way to find them is to look for newspaper kiosks along the Third and Fourth Ring roads.

Fangzhou owns 20,000 bikes, and estimates that about a third of them are borrowed every day. Big rental sites, such as those in Wangjing and Shangdi,

Haidian District, maintain more than a hundred bikes, while smaller ones only have several units. The company said it plans to extend its network to the Fifth Ring Road.

Beikelantu, another big bicycle rental company, serves suburban districts such as Fengtai, in addition to Xuanwu, Chongwen, Chaoyang and Haidian.

Bicycles from the two companies cost five yuan an hour and two yuan for less than an hour. People who plan to use public bikes regularly are advised to get a membership card to get better rates.

Fangzhou offers a monthly card at 30 yuan and a yearly card

at 120 yuan; a deposit of 180 yuan is required. Beikelantu's day rate is 20 yuan and it has a monthly card that costs 60 yuan. But it requires a deposit of 400 yuan.

Both companies designed their bikes with special parts and colors to discourage theft. But customers whose units are stolen forfeit their deposit.

For more information, check out Beikelantu's web site bjbr.cn/index.htm. Fangzhou's website, fangzoubike.com, is under construction, but it will be up by the end of the month. To find its nearest rental station or to cancel your card, call the company's toll free number 400 896 5901.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

I'm moving from Beijing to Suzhou and have roughly 100 kilograms of books I want to take with me. Will sending them through China Post be cheaper than taking an extra bag on Air China?

If that extra bag on the plane will constitute excess baggage, then the post office is definitely a cheaper option. It has a lower rate for books and printed materials compared with other items. You can also try express service. Call Huadefeng logistics at 5238 6228. They mainly deal with Beijing to Suzhou packages and charge only 0.30 yuan per kilogram for books.

I want to buy a motorcycle (250 to 500 cubic centimeters) but can I take it on the ring roads or expressways?

It all depends on your plate number. If it's Jing B, you cannot drive within the Fourth Ring, but you can go to Wudaokou, Tongzhou, Lidu or Sanlitun without a problem. Some motorbike riders prefer to stay away from highways to avoid poorly trained drivers.

If you have a B plate or an out-of-Beijing plate, you can drive outside the Fourth Ring but not on the main lanes of other ring roads; only on their side roads.

(By Wei Ying)

Yi Pai Finding in con

By He Jianwei

Without the limits of themes and materials, is there really a difference between East and West in contemporary art? Art critic Gao Minglu suggests a new concept, "Yi Pai," to define contemporary Chinese art: a spirit separate from traditional Chinese art and modern art in the West.

A collection of 200 pieces from 78 artists at the Today Art Museum defines Yi Pai. "It is a way of thinking. If the viewer feels the piece is contemporary, but also recognizes its Chinese spirit, then I achieved my goal," Gao says.



Gao Minglu

Yi Pai: *Century Thinking* showcases paintings, sculptures, installations, buildings and videos created during the past three decades. Most works are dark and earthy, and highly conceptual and often feature abstract content that begs further explanation.

These initial observations present an immediate contrast to the visual aesthetics of artists commonly associated with what the international scene considers contemporary Chinese art.

Each work's title card is placed at ground level, forcing viewers to really look at the work itself before awkwardly bending down to read the artist's name and title.

In terms of local displays, this is a particularly refreshing one of art in the context of contemporary art in China. It indicates that the audience embraces the ambitious attempt to utilize critical theory and to ponder the production of art.

Yi Pai is "a subversive theory against representation and is a new way of thinking, one which transcends realism, modernism and postmodern conceptualism," Gao

says. He adapts literary theory to describe a movement specific to Chinese culture.

Gao first proposed Yi Pai in 2007 when he organized an exhibition of 30 years of Chinese abstract art in Spain. Only a fourth of the works exhibited in modern, and most of those were paintings.

Gao says the concept evolved from his role as a critic, he probes the relationship between contemporary Chinese culture.

Before he became involved in contemporary art, Gao studied traditional Chinese paintings from the Tang (960-1279) and Yuan (1271-1368) dynasties. His favorite was the painter Zhao Mengfu, a prince of the Yuan Dynasty and a Chinese scholar, painter and calligrapher.

"In Song Dynasty, many artists attempted to create three-dimensional objects and to master the space, but Zhao's abandoned any attempt at realism," he says.

Zhao's rejection of the refined, gentle brushwork of his era in favor of the cruder eighth century



(From left to right) Utopia Home, by He Xiangyu, Imprison, by Qin Yufen, Rocket I & II, by Xiao Lu

Photos provided by Today Art Museum

"It is easy to recognize a piece by an American artist if the piece is about racial discrimination. But if the artist's theme is something like globalization or environmental protection, how can you tell?"



ng the Chinese emporary art



Logo of the exhibition

13
Center stage

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have started the revolution that led to modern Chinese landscape painting.

In the 1980s, China was in the throes of the modern art movement, triggered by art groups like Stars Group and Anonymous Painting Group. It peaked with the '85 New Wave Movement, which produced many great artists, art groups and exhibitions. The period climaxed at the China/Avant-Garde in 1989.

"After the Cultural Revolution, Scar literature was pervasive. It appeared in modern art as portraits of suffering intellectuals. I wrote to oppose these realistic works, because it is useless to complain about the reality," Gao says.

In the 1990s, Chinese modern art began to focus on "the spiritual experience of the artist in the process of creation as self-contemplation outside and beyond the artwork itself," Gao says.

For instance, the artists Li Huasheng and Zhu Xiaohu drew subjects of their daily life using the techniques of Western abstract art.

"These artists pay more attention to creation, to the uncertainty of meaning and to instability. Meaning is not

reflected directly in a work, because they believe that what is in the artist's mind at the time of creation may not necessarily appear in his work," he says.

But the real reason he coined the new concept was to seek out the difference in thinking between Chinese and Western artists. Although the materials and techniques the artists use are borrowed from Western culture, "modern Chinese art has a unique characteristic which makes it different from that produced by other cultures."

He said the difference between Chinese and Western modern art is not in the themes or materials. "It is easy to recognize a piece by an American artist if the piece is about racial discrimination. But if the artist's theme is something like globalization or environmental protection, how can you tell? That is the core issue I want to discuss," he says.

Gao studied in the US through the 1990s and was granted his PhD by Harvard University in 1999. After 30 years observing modern art in both China and the US, he says Western artists prefer to decode everything and pursue accuracy, while Chinese artists approximate and focus on integrity.

This is easier to understand in the translation field. "The difference in thinking is also reflected in translation. For example, Pizza Hut's name just means a place that sells pizza, but in Chinese it becomes 'Bi Sheng Ke,' which means invincible," he says.

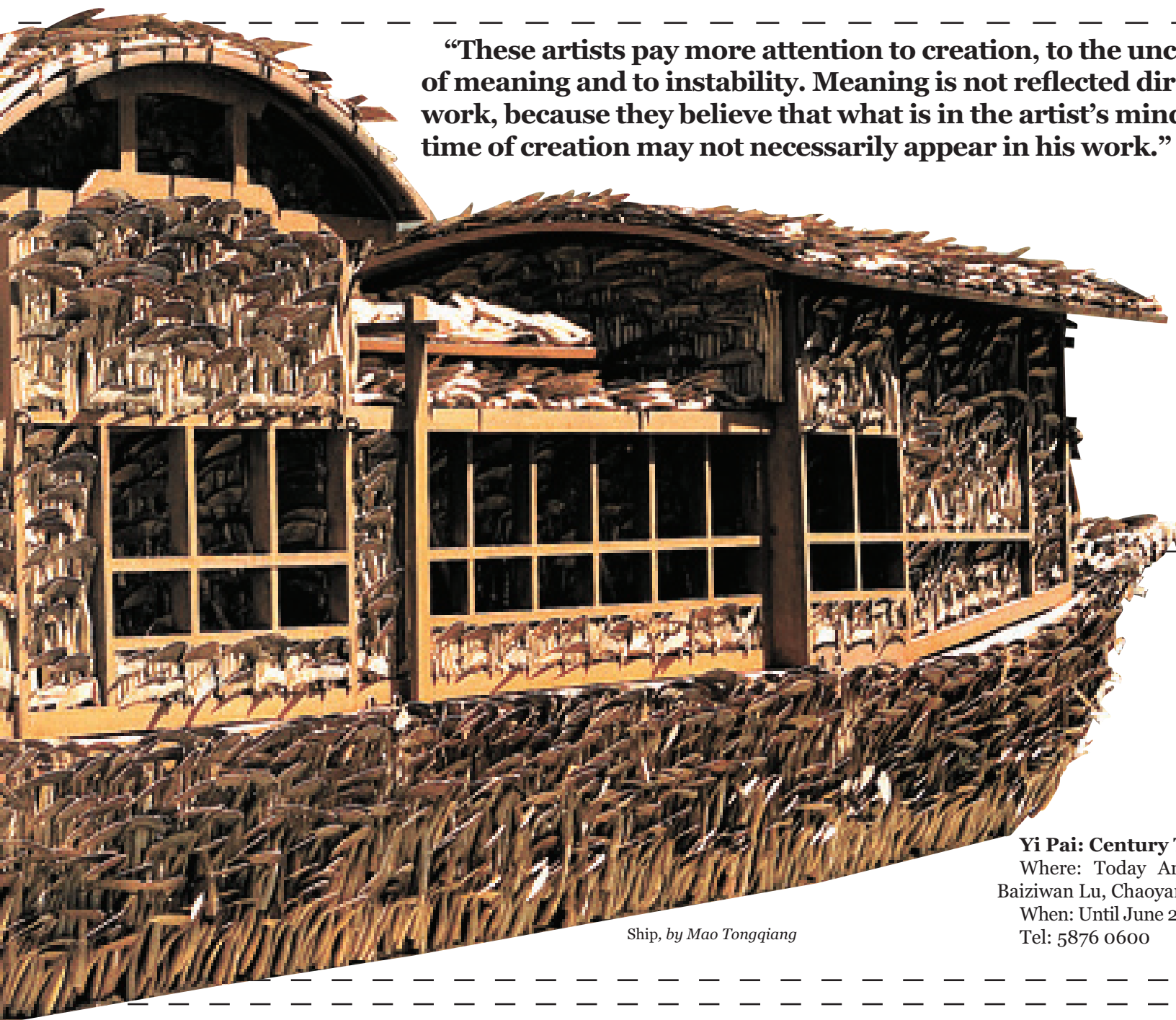
Turning Chinese phrases back into English is the same. "In Chinese, we say 'Wan Li (10,000 miles) Changcheng,' but in English the translation would include the exact length in kilometers," he says.

Although globalization has imbued many younger Chinese people with messages from the West, Gao insists their work still reflects a uniquely Chinese way of thinking.

"Maybe our architecture has become Western style, but you can still find traditional culture in daily life. There are many ancient relics in our cities, and students still learn from the poems and essays of ancient dynasties," he says.

In the past three decades, when people discussed or studied Chinese-made modern art, they did so by using Western art theory. "It's time for us to make our own theory. If we want to tell the story of Chinese modern art, we should do it with our own language."

"These artists pay more attention to creation, to the uncertainty of meaning and to instability. Meaning is not reflected directly in a work, because they believe that what is in the artist's mind at the time of creation may not necessarily appear in his work."



Ship, by Mao Tongqiang

Yi Pai: Century Thinking
Where: Today Art Museum, 32
Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until June 22, 10 am – 6 pm
Tel: 5876 0600

BEIJING TODAY
Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Yang Gen

Heaven and hell of an Austrian family

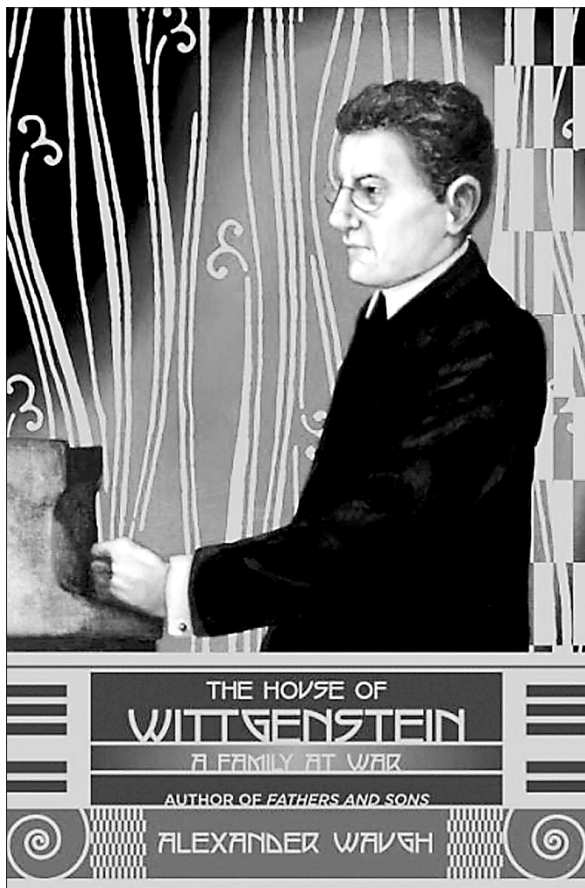
By Charles Zhu

Ludwig Wittgenstein is arguably the greatest philosopher of the 20th century, though his relative Paul Wittgenstein, one of the rare one-armed pianists, may be lesser known.

Both are descended from an Austrian family known for fabulous fortune and iron will. Alexander Waugh, grandson of similarly famous Evelyn Waugh, recounted the complexities and struggle of the siblings in his *The House of Wittgenstein, A Family at War* (333pp, Doubleday, US \$28.95).

Karl Wittgenstein, a steel, banking and arms magnate and one of the richest men in Austria, fathered nine children. Of the five boys, Hans, the eldest, fled the household and went to live in America where he killed himself in Lake Okeechobee; Rudi, a closeted homosexual, killed himself by drinking a cyanide-laced glass of milk at a restaurant bar in Berlin; Kurt shot himself in the head on the battlefield in World War I. Of the three daughters, two married and their husbands either committed suicide or went mad.

Of the two boys who had survived into adulthood, one wrote the fearfully difficult and hardly comprehensible "the Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus," which opens with the famous proposition "The world is all that is the case." The philosopher helped design a cubical house – a modernist masterpiece of three oblong boxes fused together – for his sister Gretl in Vienna. He was very much concerned with details and proportions. As a story goes, when the builders thought they had completed one of the main rooms, he asked them to raise the ceiling by



three centimeters.

Having written that philosophical work, Ludwig abandoned philosophy and in renouncing his share of the family fortune went to take a job as an Alpine village schoolmaster. Later, he abandoned the job when he was prosecuted for knocking one of his 11-year-old pupils unconscious.

The Wittgensteins lived in pomp in Vienna, enjoying music in particular. They "pursued music with an enthusiasm that, at times, bordered on the pathological," Waugh writes. Their musical evening parties, attended sometimes by Brahms, Richard Strauss, Arnold Schoenberg and Gustav

Mahler, were among the best in Viennese high society. They also had a major collection of manuscripts by such classic masters as Mozart and Beethoven.

Growing up in such a musical atmosphere, Paul, the closest sibling in age to Ludwig, gave his debut concert to rousing acclaim in Vienna in December 1913. Eight months later, he was hit in the right elbow by a Russian bullet. Surgeons at a field hospital amputated most of his right arm, and he was taken off to Siberia as a prisoner of war.

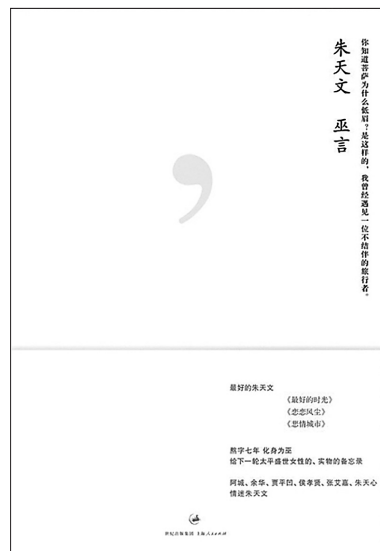
Without his right arm, Paul made up his mind to continue his career as a pianist. In the invalid ward of a Russian POW camp, he set about thinking how to play melody and accompaniment with a single hand. He began to develop a series of tricks that would possibly fool the sharpest ear. "His most far-reaching innovation was a combined pedaling and hand movement technique that allowed him to sound chords that were strictly impossible for a five-fingered pianist to play," Waugh writes.

With the Wittgensteinian iron will, he tried and succeeded.

Undoubtedly, the family fortune also helped. He commissioned concertos and other pieces from a number of leading composers, including Richard Strauss, Paul Hindemith, Sergei Prokofiev, Maurice Ravel and Benjamin Britten.

The payment he offered was enormous. However, to the surprise of the composers, he deemed that he had bought their music as a truly wholesale package. He believed that he was thus entitled not only to exclusive performance rights, but also the right to revise their scores to his own taste.

Award winner's new novel rethinks era



By He Jiamwei

Chu T'ien-Wen is more famous as a screenwriter than a novelist. Although she won five major literary prizes in Taiwan, these achievements are overshadowed by her Best Script Award at

the Venice and Tokyo film festivals.

For most Chinese readers, her name is associated with director Hsian-hsien Hou, a leader of Taiwan's New Wave cinema movement. Chu wrote almost 20 scripts for Hou's movies since 1983.

Although she has been busy writing scripts for Hou, Chu has spent eight years on her latest novel *Wu Yan* (*Words of Sorcery*, 387pp, Shanghai People's Publishing House, 35 yuan), published last month.

Chu started on the novel in June 2000. Its original title was *Time to Murder and Create*, borrowed from American crime writer Lawrence Sanders' Matthew Scudder novels.

She chose it to express "what you murder in life is what you create in novel," because she believed the novelist pulls down the house of his or her life and to uses its bricks to build the house in a novel.

But she quickly changed the title to *Wu Yan*, because the book has two tracks. The first is the novelist's own story and the other is the novelist's imagination. "From the novelist's life,

the readers may be surprised by the kind of novels he or she writes and how the novelist puts the elements in life into the novel."

It is difficult to call it a novel or a non-fiction. Chu abandoned her fiction writing techniques and researched the modern era to capture it realistically.

She said she enjoyed writing the novel since it was a way to stay true in a world full of entertainment, virtualization and imitation.

In the book, readers can see distant relations between two travelers living in one room; everyone masks his or her true feelings; people shower their pets with sympathy while giving apathy toward their fellow man.

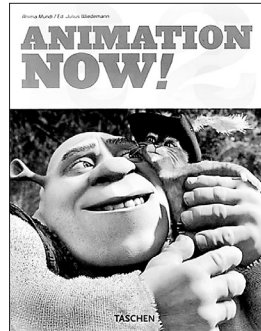
It is her responsibility as an intellectual to criticize the contemporary era, she said. "The writer is never satisfied with reality, and he or she must respond."

Since starting on the book, Chu has finished four scripts for movies in 2001, 2002, 2005 and 2007.

"Writing is asking for trouble, but the desire to create is the desire to live."

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

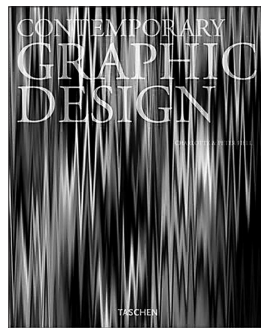
The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends these new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.



Animation Now!

By Anima Mundi, 351pp, Taschen, 150 yuan

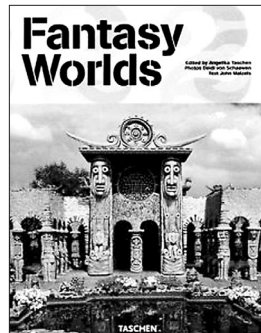
The artists behind the cartoons are the focus of this sweeping study of everything you ever wanted to know about today's best animators. The author has rounded up 80 of the world's most prominent artists and studios and arranged them from A to Z, including examples and descriptions of their work as well as biographies, filmographies, bibliographies, lists of awards received and contact information. Profiles of the world's best animation schools are also provided.



Contemporary Graphic Design

By Charlotte Fiell and Peter Fiell, 559pp, Taschen, 380 yuan

The book packs a powerful visual punch of contemporary avant-garde graphic design. It showcases the extraordinary cutting-edge work of 100 of the world's most progressive graphic designers, from the hard-hitting political messages of Jonathan Barnbrook to the lyrical digital compositions of Peter Saville to the iconoclastic imagery of Stefan Sagmeister.



Fantasy Worlds

By John Maizels and Deidi von Schaewen, 236pp, Taschen, 150 yuan

One day, Ferdinand Cheval, a French postman, came across a stone at Hauterives near Lyon and he was fascinated by its strange, evocative shape. He spent the next three decades collecting stones, shells and fossils, and used them to build the Palais ideal. Cheval's palace is one of many works of architectural fantasy in this book, the result of over 20 years' research by celebrated architectural photographer Deidi von Schaewen.

(By He Jiamwei)

Grab the mic on stage!

By Wang Yu

What do we expect from shows staged everywhere, every weekend in the city? The bands? The music or the feeling of swinging, dancing freely in the crowd with the drum beats? Everything seems to be ordinary, which local music nuts have experienced for a long time and they are asking for something new.

However, it was not until February that musicians introduced "free concerts" to the local music scene. All participants are required to "play as they wish" and sing what they want on stage, but just watch out, somebody will grab the microphone very soon.

"The idea started with one of my band's shows at Jianghu club last year," says Lua Zhou, editor of *Inusic* magazine and lead singer of The Big Four, a local group of four women. It was an ordinary concert until some of the Zhou's friends climbed on the stage to sing with the band.

Lil Tiger, rapper and reigning champion of recent MC battles, brit-pop band Super VC and some music journalists were present. "It was like a big party for friends," Zhou says. The small audience gave the concert a relaxed atmosphere. After The Big Four, a Japanese singer passed the microphone to Sun Lingsheng, singer of The Super VC, who rocked the stage for a long time.

"Sun was a good singer, and I told Lil Tiger that he just 'grabbed the mic' from the Japanese artist. That was where the series concerts' name came from," Zhou says. Boxuan, bassist of Hedgehog, and some other players provided a bossanova beat. Everyone brought his own tastes to the show.

So Zhou and Lil Tiger made up their minds to organize a freestyle concert series, and two months later the first show was on The Boat club. The stage was open to both professional artists and the audience.

"Me and some friends formed a temporary hip-hop group and performed unplugged. We were afraid people would be too shy to go on stage, so my performance was there as a backup," Lil Tiger says.

But the concert turned out to be successful. Many artists brought their own instruments to jam with the new nonstop music project.

"But I thought the concert could have been better. People

need to relax when they're on stage. You can play drums, guitar, bass, keyboard or just sing or read a poem if you can't play an instrument," Lil Tiger says. "Only at this event did we learn Jia Wei, one of our music journalists, is also quite a good blues singer. Everyone was stunned by his performance."

On May 28, the team returned to Jianghu club for a second show. Lil Tiger was the DJ this time, and he gave stories on which the participants had to improvise.

"Say I talk about 'graduation': the theme is set and the music starts, and I pick one person at random to rap with me on the topic. This time, more people brought instruments including some foreign artists like a French guitarist whose Chinese name was Zhang Si'an," Lil Tiger says.

Aside from the stars of the show, the concert series has pulled new audience members into the performance: ones who previously were passive. "They might find their own potential to be a rock star, or at least the courage to be more open to the strangers," Zhou says.

In some ways, it is a reincar-

nation of the early 1990s party scene, where many musicians were inspired to join in by the new music.

More strangers took part in the event, and Zhou found a lot of talented people among them who were not active in the music scene. "A young hardcore guitar player showed his rapping skills in both Chinese and English.

He was amazing at beatboxing. Another rapper turned out to be a nunchuk master," Zhou says.

That gave them a new idea: what if these talented people could cooperate after the concert? "These people from outside the scene surprised us every time. Though we haven't brought any of them in to cooperate on projects, it's bound to

Constitution of the Grab Mic League

1. A mic grabber should be a long-time music lover. He does not have to understand many kinds of music, but should have an open mind to welcome different melodies.

2. Being able to play guitar, bass or drums would be very helpful at any mic grabbing show. Other special skills or a good voice can make one a star grabber, but be creative.

3. To band members: the audience may love your singles, but we encourage you to try totally different music styles. People want to see a guitarist rap.

4. Though we "grab" microphones from others, please mind your manners. Ask a performer to hand over his or her mic.

5. Keep in touch with other grabbers and keep an eye on the city's event information online. Our schedule is not fixed.

6. Remember the address of the venues and have fun!

The Boat club: Liangmahe Nan Lu; go north and turn left when you see the river

Jianghu club: 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng District



CFP Photos

New stores and products

By Annie Wei

Being a single woman in China is not easy. Well, it's not difficult either, as long as one is financially independent enough to pamper herself – right shoes for jogging, right clothes for ballet class and good nail polish to shine in summer.

Shopping always makes us happy!

A reason to dance in the latest fashion



Second-hand children's ballet dress, 50 yuan

By Annie Wei

More and more office workers are taking dance classes after work to relax or exercise – tango, swing, ballet, you name it.

However, there are few places in town that sell dancing outfits priced within a worker's budget. One of them is J-Ballet, which recently opened near the Workers Stadium.

The shop specializes in ballet costumes and has the basics such as tights, dancing skirts, stretch pants and tank tops in a range of sizes for both children and adults. Most of its clothes are cotton and come in black, white and pink. Most of their goods are under 100 yuan; J-Ballet's most expensive item is a pair of yoga pants that cost over a hundred yuan.

The store also sells ballet shoes: children's shoes cost 25 yuan, while adults' range from 65 to 85 yuan.

It also has second-hand children's ballet outfits on sale for 50 yuan each. "Each has only been worn once or twice," the shop assistant said. You know how fast kids grow, so this definitely saves money.

It is owned by a Japanese ballet teacher, Junko Takeda, who also runs the neighboring J-Ballet Studio school. The studio, which has been around for four years, offers lessons every day for children and adults. Apart from ballet, the school also teaches contemporary French and Spanish dances, joint exercises for parents and their children, Capoeira and hip-hop for adults and children.

Compared to other dancing classes or gyms in this area, 80 yuan per 90 minutes in Takeda's class is more affordable.

Takeda said she is continuing to expand the merchandise in her clothing store. Soon, she will have dance costumes made of eco-friendly materials.

J-Ballet

Where: J-Ballet store, Xingfu Shoukai Plaza, Xindong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 10 am – 8 pm

Tel: 8453 3003

Web site: j-ballet.com



Ballet tops for adults, less than 100 yuan

Photos by Wendy Zha



Find your best running partner

By He Jianwei

According to research, 65 percent of adults' foot diseases are caused by wearing improper shoes. This year, as part of its spring and summer collection, sportswear brand Adidas released a series of running shoes to fit different foot shapes and running styles.

In its shop at The Oriental Plaza is a foot scanner that helps costumers determine their foot shape and which part of their feet receives the most pressure when they walk. The machine contains foot-scan plates on which people have to walk. The device then analyzes and records how much pressure is received by various parts of the feet.

The first series of Adidas running shoes is called ClimaCool, created to keep the feet cool despite intense exercise. It works by enhancing the feet's cooling system and providing additional ventilation in critical spots. Its sole is designed to give the fragile anklebone extra protection.

The second series is ZX8000, designed for running on specific terrains, such as rocky paths or for-

ests, to reduce the pressure on the knees. The series mixes subtle colors with bold shades; plays with textures such as army ripstop fabric, black textured leather, suede and soft nubuck.

The last series is Adizero, light footwear that gives the feet increased breathability. The lightest shoes in the series are 220 grams, while the heaviest are 280 grams; regular running shoes weigh about 500 grams. Made with extra soft shoe soles, Adizero is ideal for professional athletes and those who take running seriously.

Adidas

Where: Adidas Sanlitun Brand Center, Building 9, 15 Sanlitun Nan Jie, Chaoyang District

Adidas Oriental Plaza, AA67C, 1 Chang'an Jie, Dongcheng District

Adidas Shin Kong Place, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: 680-880 yuan for ClimaCool; 620-780 yuan for Adizero; and 880 yuan for ZX8000

Photos provided by Adidas

Options for beautiful summer nails

By Annie Wei

Now that winter is long gone and the gloves have been stashed away, nails salons have sprouted on almost every street corner. With prices going from heaven to purgatory, how do you decide where to go? Manicures cost from 20 yuan at clothing markets to 120 yuan at high-end salons, while pedicures range from 30 to 180 yuan.

Small beauty salons have cheaper prices, but they will get you with "extras": an additional 10 yuan if you use OPI products imported from the US or another 15 yuan if you want a quick-dry top coat.

Street-side stores sell nail polish that cost only 2 yuan a bottle – but would you really trust something that cheap? Who knows what chemicals went in it.

One other option is to look for Sally Hansen nail products. The US brand entered the Chinese market a couple months ago and is available in Watson stores around the city.



Fast dry top coat, 98 yuan



French manicure kit, 98 yuan

Photos by Wendy Zha

Its top sellers include Mega Shine (98 yuan), a top coat that guarantees your nails dry within 60 seconds; DIY French manicure kit (98 yuan) for elegant and sophisticated-looking nails.

It has nail polish colors from baby pink to vixen red for 88 yuan per bottle. The brand also sells products for the care of hands and feet.

Sally Hansen

Where: Watson's, The basement of The Village, 9 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 10 am – 10 pm

Web site:

e6home.com/sallyhansen/

A match made in the kitchen

Dishes to pair with French wine

By Annie Wei

More and more foreign wineries and wine distributors are setting up shops in China to tap into the expanding high-end market – consumers who have a voracious appetite for luxury goods.

As the local wine market has had to deal with consumers' lack of knowledge about wine, questionable distributors and expensive yet low-quality drinks, market players are confident they're looking at a bright future.

According to Le Conseil Interprofessionnel du Vin de Bordeaux, a Bordeaux

wine association, the quantity of Bordeaux imported by China has increased 35 times in the past nine years. Meanwhile, the International Wine and Spirit Record (IWSR) predicts that domestic wine consumption will increase 36 percent from 2008 to 2010.

To corner the high-end market, some food and beverage giants have introduced top-class wines. Among them is COFCO, one of the few Chinese companies listed on the Fortune 500, which recently set up a division for imported wine and spirits.



Chef Claude Troisgros

Photos provided by COFCO

Last month, COFCO began distributing French wine brand Antoine Moueix, among southern France's top five wine producers and traders. COFCO then invited star-chef Claude Troisgros, who runs a famous restaurant in Brazil and from a 3-Michelin-star restaurant family, to create dishes to go with Moueix wines. The four bottle wines present four different catalogues of Moueix wines.

Troisgros said he likes to work with tropical and "exotic" ingredients. In his first visit to China, he whipped up dishes that had a distinctly Chinese flavor.



Antoine Moueix Saint-Emilion (850 yuan): lamb with strong-flavor sauce, shiitake mushrooms and asparagus

This wine (80 percent Merlot and 20 percent Cabernet Franc) has an intense red color and has a powerful bouquet of red fruit aromas. Its mouth-feel is rich, structured by tannins.

The pairing of lamb and a Saint-Emilion wine is very Bordeaux. Antoine Moueix's Saint-Emilion is a full-bodied wine, so it's recommended to be enjoyed with a juicy lamb dish.

The wine's oaky touch and its alcohol level match the sauce's sweetness. The shiitake mushrooms bring out the wine's fragrance and complexity.

Recommended Chinese dishes for this wine:

Qingjiaochaoniurou (Stir-fried beef and green pepper) or shuizhuyu (pork in spicy broth)



Antoine Moueix Bordeaux Red Margaux (1,450 yuan): grouper fillet with banana, onion, plums and butter

This wine (60 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 40 percent Merlot) has an intense purple colour, and has a complex with notes of black cherry, blackberry and violets. Its mouth-feel is ample and well-balanced.

The chef chose a tasty fish, grouper, for its seafood flavor and to match the banana's sweetness. The wine provides freshness and a bit of mineral to enforce the dish's fragrance. Troisgros said this is a challenging match because fish and white wine have become a classic pair.

Recommended Chinese dishes for this wine:

Shuizhuyu (fish in spicy broth) and Suancaiyou (fish in pickled cabbage soup)



Antoine Moueix Bordeaux blanc (400 yuan): fried scallops with curried Chinese cabbage and sweet corn rice

This dry white wine, 100 percent Sauvignon Blanc, has a clear bright color with golden reflections. It carries the aromas of fresh and clear fruits, with a well-balanced, elegant and fresh mouth-feel.

Troisgros said the wine's hint of acidity was balanced out by the food's sweetish taste, while its fresh and delicate taste goes well with the tenderness of the scallops. Its citrusy smell creates an aromatic complexity for the dish – a very rich concoction with the fragrance of caramel and seafood and a small touch of lemon.

Recommended Chinese dishes for this wine:

Liangban Wosun Si (fried lettuce stems) or Jirou Baicai Xin (cabbage hearts stewed in chicken oil)



Antoine Moueix Bordeaux red (400 yuan)

This dry red wine (60 percent Merlot, 30 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 10 percent Cabernet Franc) has the color of red meggranate, has the intense aroma of ripe red berries and has a well-balanced mouth-feel.

Where to buy Antoine Moueix wines



They also sell the most expensive champagne in town – Curee Louise at 3,000 yuan a bottle.

Wish (Wutong)

Where: 6 Fangyuan Xi Lu, Xiaoyunqiao Wai, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6438 1118 or 6438 8883

Tanlang

Where: Inside the south gate of Workers' Stadium, Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6501 1165

Kerry Center Hotel

Where: 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

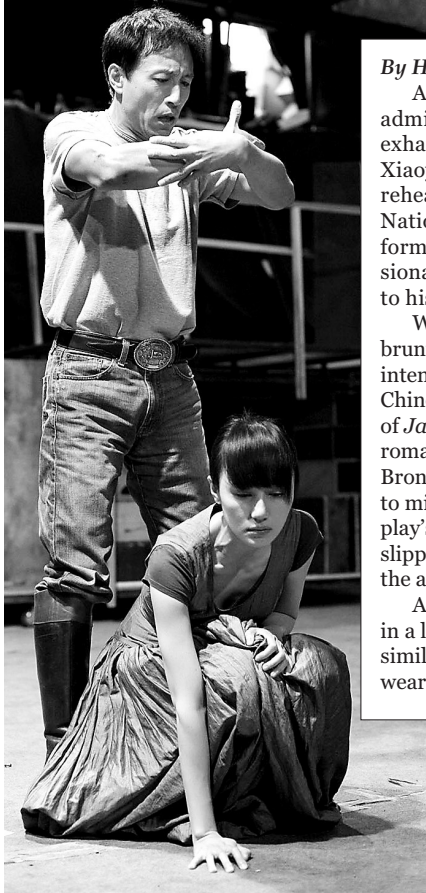
Tel: 6561 88333

Beijing Novotel (Heping Binguan)

Where: 3 Jinyu Hutong, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6512 9632

Jane Eyre adapted for Chinese audiences



By He Jianwei

A few hours after being admitted to the hospital for exhaustion, director Wang Xiaoying was back at the rehearsal room of the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA), passionately giving instructions to his actors and actresses.

Wang's health took the brunt of the past month's intense rehearsals for the Chinese theatrical adaptation of *Jane Eyre*, an English romantic novel by Charlotte Bronte. But Wang didn't want to miss a moment until the play's June 19 premiere, so he slipped out of the hospital in the afternoon.

At NCPA, Yuan Quan is in a loose grey cotton dress, similar to the one she will wear as Jane Eyre during

the performance. She said she wanted to get used to the feel of a long costume, which also helps her get into character.

Wang Luoyong, the mainland's first singer to make it on Broadway, plays Jane Eyre's love interest Edward Rochester.

Wang has been hailed one of the top Asian actors on Broadway for his leading role in the musical *Miss Saigon* in the 1990s. When the show closed in 2001 as one of the longest-running Broadway productions, Wang had already given 2,500 performances.

"I can feel everything, but I'm not good at expressing it in words. Wang, however, is an engineer when it comes to decoding and analyzing such problems," Yuan said.

During rehearsals, Wang often wears a pair of boots ala Edward Rochester to help him get into the man's skin. But after they step off the stage, Wang said he and Yuan usually have difficulty shaking off their characters, so they just go over their lines again.

Many people doubt Yuan's ability to play the plain-looking Jane Eyre because of her beautiful face. But Wang said, "In my mind, she really has a lot of similarities with Jane Eyre."

Jane Eyre

Where: The National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 19-28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-500 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Upcoming

Nightlife

Vorzeigekinder, Suid Akra & Kira
Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District
When: June 16, 8 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6404 2711

Stage in July

Concert

Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra – China Concert

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District
When: July 2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6605 7006

Bache Cycle

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: July 17, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

In a Romantic Mood – The Newstead Trio Concert

Where: Concert Hall of The National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 17, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-500 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Beethoven Cycle by Jean-Efflam Bavouzet

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: July 24, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-600 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Dance

The Rain of Flowers Along the Silk Road – Dance Drama

Where: Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 9-10, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Don Quixote – Spanish Modern Dance

Where: Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 29 – August 2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

The 2nd China International Youth Arts Week

– The Marriage of Figaro
Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: July 12-14, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6462 8470

Tea – The Heart's Mirror
Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: July 30-31, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)

Friday, June 12

Exhibition

U Fan'er Chinese New Power

Where: Gallery Beijing Space, C4, Red Yard, Caochangdi, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 15, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5127 3246



More Than Rabbit

Where: B2 Zhongguancun Plaza Shopping Mall, 15 Zhongguancun Dajie,

Haidian District

When: Until June 14, daily, 10 am – 10 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5986 3030

Movie

Katyn

Where: Embassy of Poland, 1 Ritan Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Email: poland.culture@yahoo.pl

Nightlife

Real Rock 'n' Roll

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Re-Tros

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 60 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Saturday, June 13

Exhibition

Sheng Qi's New Paintings

Where: F2 Gallery, 319 Caochangdi, Cuigezhuang,

Chaoyang District

When: Until August 17, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 8831



Yoon Gi Won Solo Exhibition

Where: Gallery Artside, Space II, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until July 15, daily except Monday, 10 am – 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9192

Movie

Senior Year

Where: 5/F Wenjin Hotel, Tsinghua Science Park, Haidian District
When: 4:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6252 5566

Nightlife

Goodbye! My University!

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 80 yuan; 50 yuan for students
Tel: 6402 5080

Hot Cat Club Opening Show

Where: Hot Cat Club, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District
When: 8:30-11 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 15011577397

Sunday, June 14

Exhibition

Future Together Nomination Exhibition

Where: Arario Beijing, Gallery I, Jiuchang Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, AnwaiBeiYuan, Chaoyang District
When: Until July 26, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5202 3800

The Pessimistic Optimist – Qiu Xin Solo Exhibition

Where: Star Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until June 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9224

Nightlife

Moka

Where: Lao What Bar, 72 Beichang Jie, Xicheng District
When: 8:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 13341122157

Rock

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Movie



Chingoo

Where: 1905 Movie Club, B2, 6 Xiangjun Bei Li, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 2 pm
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 6591 8189

Workaholics, beware lymphoma

What is lymphoma?

Lymphoma, also called lymph cancer, is a broad term encompassing a variety of cancers of the lymphatic system. The system helps to filter out bacteria and is important in fighting disease. Lymph vessels widen into lymph nodes throughout the body, with major clusters in the underarms, groin, neck, chest and abdomen. Most of us have felt these under our arms or neck.

"In lymphoma, some of the cells in the lymph system multiply uncontrollably. If

all the cells are the same they are called malignant or cancerous," Zhu Xiongzen, director of Committee of Malignant Tumor Treatment of the Chinese Anti-Cancer Association, said.

Lymphoma is differentiated by the type of cell that multiplies and how the cancer presents itself. The two main types of lymphoma in humans are Hodgkin's disease and non-Hodgkin's lymphomas. Since the early 1970s, the incidence rate of non-Hodg-

kin's lymphoma has nearly doubled worldwide, while incidence rates for Hodgkin's disease have declined 60 percent.

"The rise in AIDS has contributed to the number of people diagnosed, as their immune system is weakened enough to develop non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and other illnesses. Better means of diagnosis has also increased the number as doctors who can better recognize lymphoma," Zhu says.

Symptoms

Lymphoma is not difficult to diagnose once a patient and doctor begin to look for signs of cancer. "However, Lymphoma – especially non-Hodgkin's lymphoma – is something of a silent killer," he said. "Symptoms are frequently minor or non-existent in the early stages. Lymphoma symptoms mimic symptoms of common illness which are familiar and non-threatening to most patients."

1. Local symptoms:

- Swollen lymph nodes

Lymphoma may cause swelling of lymph nodes in the neck, chest, abdomen and on the skin. "Lymph nodes in the neck frequently swell in cases of sinus infection or can be symptomatic of the flu. But if they persist for a long time or occur apart from other sickness they might be cause for concern," Zhu said. Lymph node swelling in the armpits or abdomen might be cause for more immediate concern. Lymphoma may also cause swelling in the chest

area which may interfere with breathing. Lymphomas of the skin often appear as itchy red or purple lumps. Swollen lymph nodes are usually tender and painful to some degree. But in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, the swelling may not be accompanied by pain.

2. General symptoms:

- Chest pain: It may occur if the lymphoma affects the thymus.
- Unexplained weight loss: The loss of 10 percent or more of total body weight could be a cause for concern.
- Recurring fevers: Obviously, fever can be a sign of just about anything. When fever recurs for no apparent reason, especially in conjunction with other symptoms, it could be a sign of lymphoma.
- Night sweats: These will usually occur in conjunction with a fever.
- Fatigue or lack of energy: This can be related to many things, but in combination with other symptoms it might

be significant.

Lymphoma symptoms are not specific to the disease. For this reason, it is very important you tell your doctor during regular checkups about any symptoms that you might be experiencing. "If you have one or more of these symptoms and feel they are part of an overall pattern suggesting lymphoma, you need to consult a physician as soon as possible," Zhu says.

For most people, preventive care is the most important weapon in the fight against lymphoma. "Lymphoma is often diagnosed during routine exams, x-rays or even during pregnancy. By having regular checkups and monitoring your overall health, you increase your chances of early diagnosis and successful treatment," he says.

By Venus Lee

Luo Jing, 48, a lead anchor of CCTV's prime time news program "Xinwen Lianbo," News Network Broadcast, died of lymphoma last Friday. Luo was a household name for Chinese viewers.

Lymphoma is a malignant tumor that afflicts the lymph system that develops most often in young and middle-aged people. The medical field has given special attention to the disease because it most often kills those 45 years old or younger, which exerts a negative influence on the labor force.

However, a new study shows that an occasional drink, whether beer, wine or a dry martini, may lower the risk of developing non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Prevention is still the key to any cancer

Zhu says lymphoma may be triggered by poor diet, pressure, overwork, environmental pollution, prolonged exposure to electromagnetic radiation, frequent hair coloring and exposure to toxic chemicals in home decorations.

1. Stop smoking and excessive drinking. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), if current smokers can kick the habit, the incidence of cancer worldwide will drop by a third within five years. Tobacco and liquor are toxic, and can accumulate in the body if consumed chronically.

2. Keep a balance of acids and bases. "Frequent consumption of alkaline foods can prevent the accumulation of acids in the body. An acidic body is a favorable environment for cancer cells." You should also avoid spicy, hot and cold food, and consume more foods known to prevent cancer like grapes, tea leaves, wine, kelp sprouts and kelp.

3. Do not exhaust yourself. "Pressure is the main cause of cancer in modern society. Too much pressure can suppress the immune system and cause hormonal imbalance, metabolic disturbance and weak circulation," he says.

4. Exercise more and sweat to prevent the body from building up acids.

5. Keep regular hours. Pulling an all nighter every night can quickly cause the body to acidify.

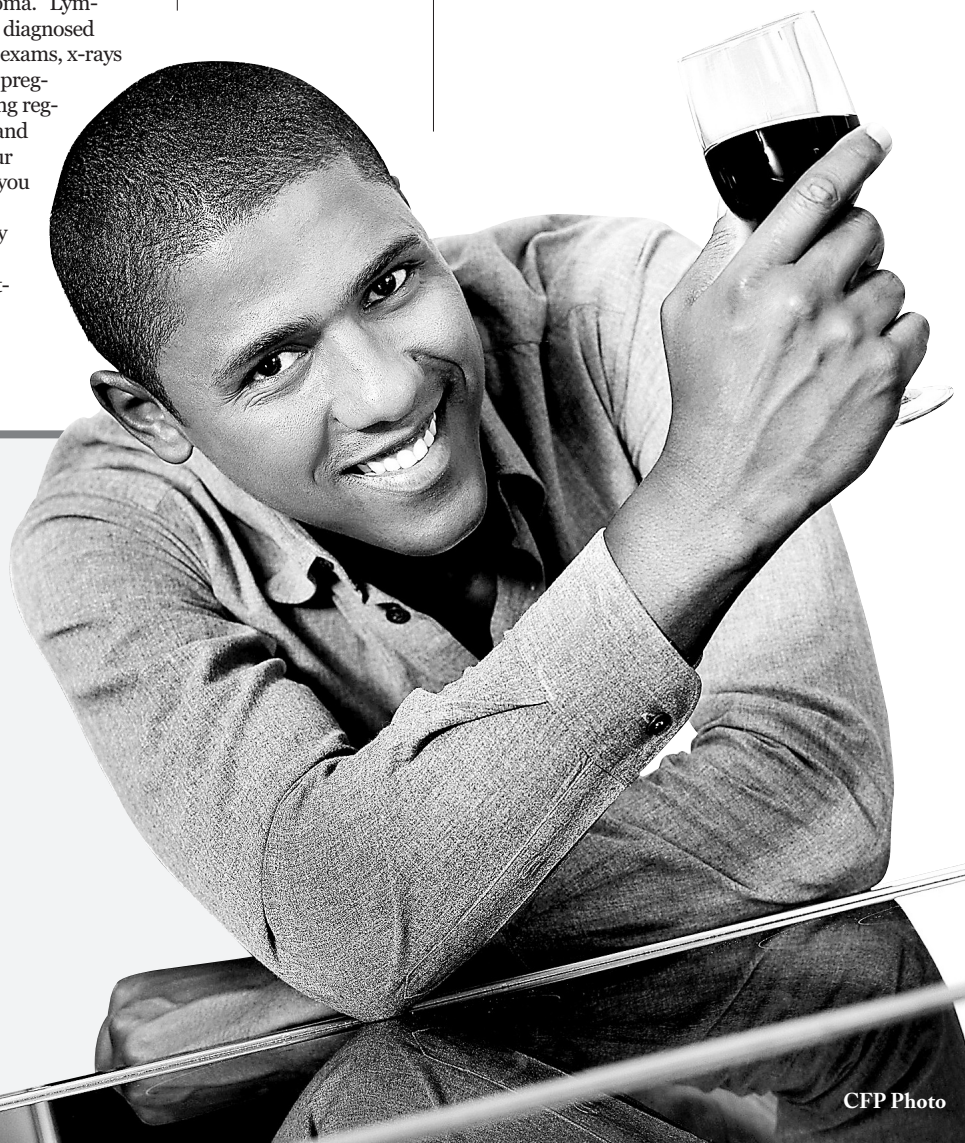
Light drinking may reduce risk of lymphoma

According to a study, regular drinkers had a 27 percent reduced risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma than nondrinkers, though the risk did not "decrease with increasing alcohol consumption," researchers at Yale's Department of Epidemiology and Public Health wrote in an article published in *Lancet Oncology*.

The benefit was not statistically significant for former drinkers, who had a 5 percent reduction in risk over nondrinkers. The reduction "did not vary by beverage type, but did change with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma subtypes." Age, sex, a family history of lymphoma and history of cigarette smoking did not change the effects of alcohol consumption on non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Zheng Tongzhang, the principal researcher, used the data from nine studies on alcohol consumption and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma to identify 6,492 cases and 8,683 controls. The studies were conducted in the US, Britain, Sweden and Italy.

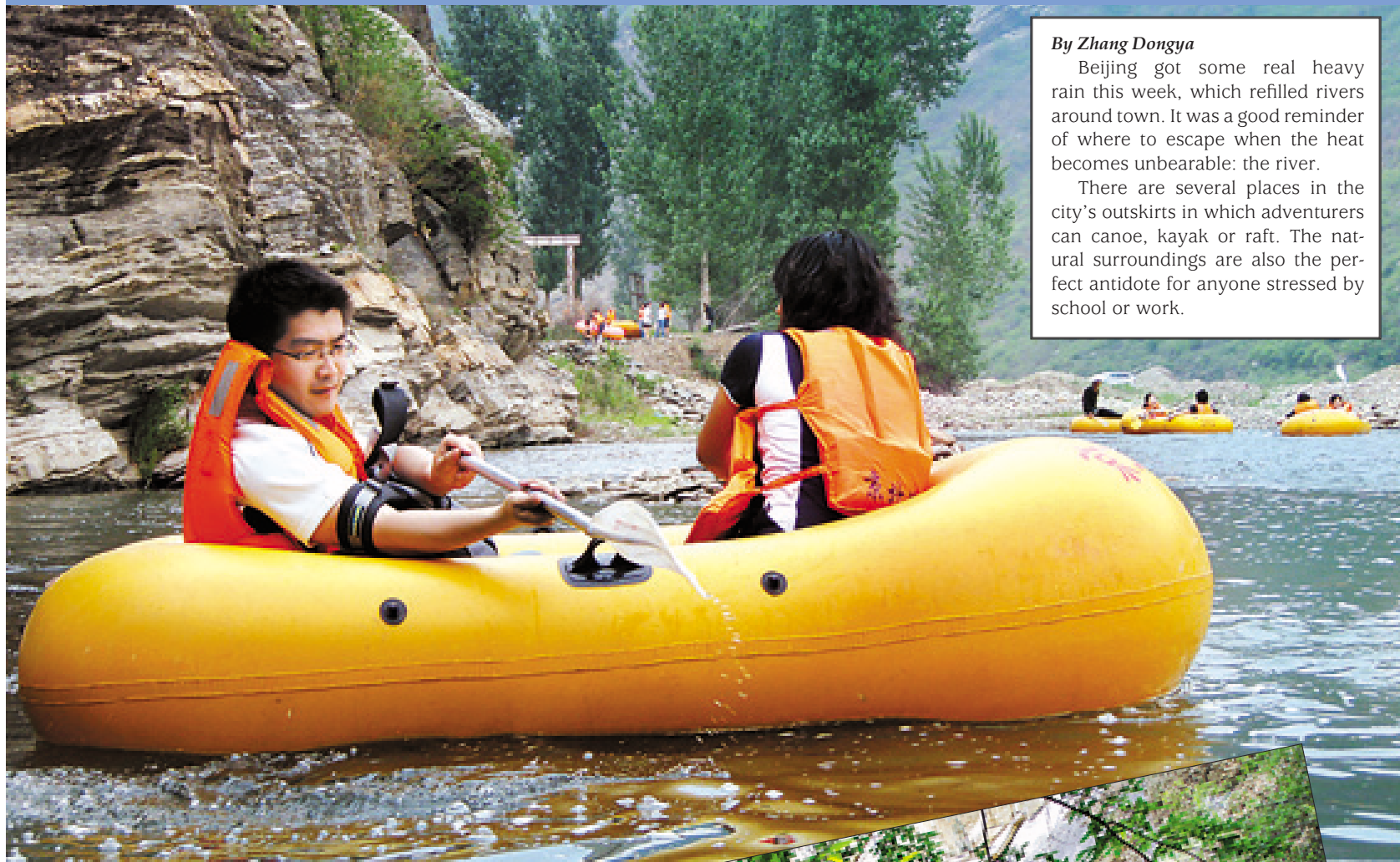
The authors note that alcohol is a risk factor in other cancers, notably cancers of the mouth, esophagus and liver, but the mechanism for how those cancers develop is unclear. In the case of lymphoma, they say alcohol's effects on the immune system may explain the observed benefit. "Although heavy alcohol consumption impairs the immune system, light to moderate alcohol might improve cellular immune response," the authors write.



CFP Photo

Havens from the summer heat

Explore Beijing's rivers on a canoe, kayak or raft



By Zhang Dongya

Beijing got some real heavy rain this week, which refilled rivers around town. It was a good reminder of where to escape when the heat becomes unbearable: the river.

There are several places in the city's outskirts in which adventurers can canoe, kayak or raft. The natural surroundings are also the perfect antidote for anyone stressed by school or work.

People can enjoy rowing a boat on the mild currents of Bai River.

Bai River, a short ride upstream

The Bai River is the first choice of people who want to go boating around Beijing. It begins in Yanqing County, flows through Huairou County and ends in the Miyun Reservoir.

The river snakes along Baihe Canyon, known as the Brahmaputra Grand Canyon of Beijing because of its similarity to the Tibetan canyon's landscape. Baihe Canyon stretches from Baihebao Reservoir in the west to Miyun Reservoir in the east, and together with the Yongdinghe and Jumahe canyons make up the "Three Canyons of Beijing."

The river's Baihe Canyon section, which measures 5 kilometers, is an ideal location for first-time boaters. It flows upstream and its current is comparatively slow and smooth.

Some villagers and resorts in Huairou rent out bamboo rafts and kayaks. A bamboo raft offers a slower and more leisurely ride and costs 50 yuan an hour, which includes paddles and life jackets. Water walking balls, which allow people to "walk" on water, are popular among visitors. The balls fit two and cost 35 yuan for 10 minutes.

Adventurers who want to travel the section's entire 5 kilometers are advised to take a kayak. The ride (120 yuan per person) takes about an hour, and a car will return people to the start. Groups of more than 15 save 20 yuan a head. The cost includes paddles and life jackets.

Xinyuanlai, one of the resorts in Huairou, has a CounterStrike (CS) field for people who are looking for some gunfighting action. Players are charged 30 yuan per hour or 80 yuan for half a day, which includes a laser rifle, protective vest and helmet.

Getting there: Take Bus 916 from Dongzhenmen to Huairou stop, then transfer to Baihe Canyon via mini-bus.

Longtanjian, exploring a scenic spot

Longtanjian, a natural scenic spot in Huairou, contains the longest section of Bai River suitable for a boat ride. The 10-kilometer route is located near the river's mouth and is surrounded by mountains, so it gets a lot of hikers and canoeists.

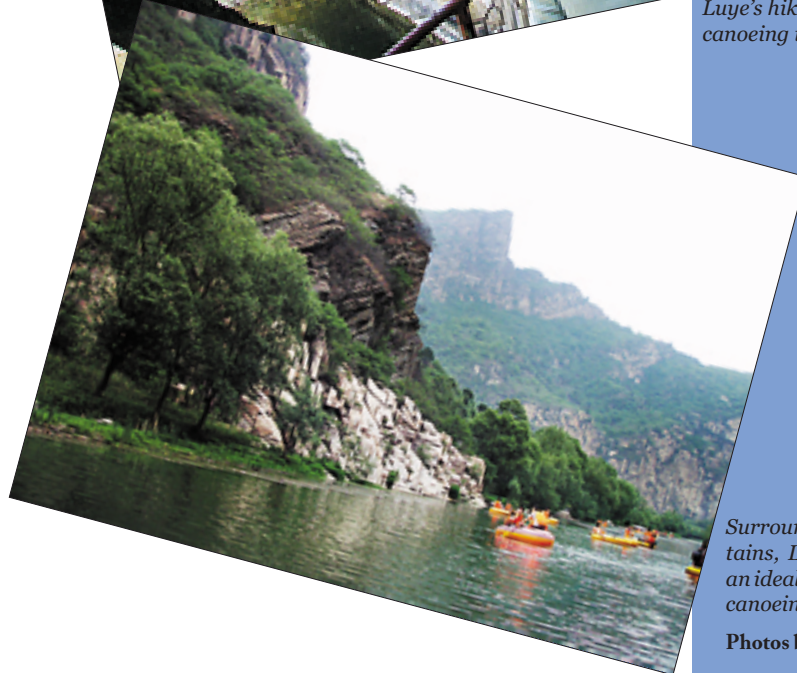
Luye, the city's biggest outdoor activity community, organized two boating events to Longtanjian for 50 people two weeks ago. "It was a rare place that provided an opportunity for both hiking and canoeing," Yan Xiaobin, the events' organizer, said.

Admission to the scenic spot costs 30 yuan. The departure point for canoes is a 20-minute bus ride away from the main gate. The 10-kilometer canoe ride costs 150 yuan each person; groups of more than 15 get a cheaper rate of 120 yuan each.

The river's mid-section has mild currents, where visitors can enjoy rowing their boat. Its lower section, which flows much faster, contains five or six sections of rapids.



Luye's hiking and canoeing trip



Surrounded by mountains, Longtanjian is an ideal place both for canoeing and hiking.

Photos by Yan Xiaobin

Continued on page 21...

... continued from page 20

Yan said now is the best time for thrill-seekers to go boating in Longtanjian. The recent rainfall increased the river's water level, which increase canoe speed.

A regular kayak can seat two, and it is recommended they be of roughly the same weight to maintain balance.

It takes an hour to an hour and a half to navigate Longtanjian's section of Bai River, depending on the water's current.

"There were five or six sections I can remember that were a bit bumpy, but not scary at all. There were also sections of flat water where you could row the boat yourselves," Yan said.

The high cliffs and dense vegetation on both banks were captivating, Yan said. He reminded visitors who head downstream to look back at Baihe Canyon. "Some areas have impressive views that pictures cannot recreate," he said.

A 20-minute walk from the route's end is the scenic area's exit.

Besides following this course, visitors can also take a page from Luye's book. The group took its members for a scenic hike around the mountains. An hour and a half later, they reached the end of the canoes' route from which they paddled upstream to the starting point.

With many twists and turns, the trip upstream was rough. Yan said they had to walk across the river several times. The water was not deep, but the current was too fast in some portions so people needed to hold on to each other for support. It took the group an hour and a half to reach the point where they could paddle.

Yan cautioned that going upstream right now is dangerous; the water level has risen due to the recent rains and crossing on foot is risky.

Getting there: Drive along Jingcheng Highway to Yangyanlu Exit, then take National Highway 111 to Baichazi.



Visitors to Baili Canyon can take a 5-kilometer ride along the Juma River.

Other destinations:

Juma River

This river begins in Laiyuan, Hebei Province, and flows toward Shi Du, or Ten Ferry, a scenic spot in Beijing. At the intersection of Shidu and Yesanpo, a scenic spot in Hebei, is a portion of the river called Langyahe – considered a perfect place for shooting the rapids. It is 3.5 kilometers long and has three to four sections of rapids.

Getting there: Drive along Jingshi Highway, then take Liulihe Exit to reach Shi Du. Turn left then proceed for another 15 minutes to reach Langyahe.

Baili Canyon

This canyon is located in Yesanpo Scenic Spot, which offers people a chance to take a 5-kilometer boat ride along a section of the Juma River. This route is comparatively unexplored and sees few visitors. Boat rental costs 60 to 80 yuan per person.

Getting there: Drive along Jingshi Highway, then take Liulihe Exit to reach Shi Du. Continue for another 40 minutes to reach Yesanpo Scenic Spot.

Yongdinghe Canyon

Located in Huailai County, Hebei Province, Yongdinghe was the first place in the north to offer boat rides. Its course is 10 kilometer long with several rapids along the canyon.

Getting there: Drive along Jingzhang Highway, take Donghuayuan Exit, then go toward Lanheba on Yekang Lu. Alternatively, take a train from Beijing to Zhangjiakou, then get off at Lanheba stop.



Visitors go for a boat ride on Juma River in Beijing's Shi Du Scenic Spot.



Yesanpo Scenic Spot in Hebei offers leisurely boat rides in summer.

CFP Photos

Tips for boat rides:

1. Bring at least one full change of clothing, preferably of non-cotton material since cotton becomes heavy when wet.
2. Wear shoes such as sneakers, which won't get ruined when they get wet. Flip-flops are not advised, because they can easily get dropped or washed away.
3. Sunscreen is necessary because your skin will be exposed to the sun for extended periods. Hat and sunglasses should have straps since the wind can blow them away.
4. Do not bring valuables on the boat. Cameras and cellphones should be placed in waterproof bags.
5. Novices should hire a guide. To be safe, buy an accident insurance for an extra 5 yuan from the scenic spot's admission area.

Dining

**Build your own burger**

Take a shot at making your own super burger at One East, the next heaven for burger lovers who will find the most luxurious paddies and a wide selection of quality ingredients and fabulous flavors. With the five cheeses, 17 toppings, eight sauces and four sides to create your dream meal.

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 30

Cost: 180 yuan per person, add 10 yuan for extra cheese or topping, subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 5865 5000

East meets West

Indulge yourself at an East Meets West-themed buffet especially prepared by Executive Chef Marco Mazzei. The buffet brings together tastes and styles from China to America with stopovers in Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Europe.

Where: CBD, Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Monday-Saturday, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm; Monday-Friday, 6-10 pm,

Cost: 98 yuan net including one soft drink (lunch buffet), 138 yuan net (dinner buffet)

Tel: 6530 9383

**Aprevino is back this spring**

Set a trend at this happening and chic outdoor party, now the place to be seen. Soak in the swish and swanky atmosphere over an Italian snack buffet and two special Aprevino cocktails. Groups of more than 10 people receive a 10 percent discount. Dine at night and save an additional 15 percent.

Where: Westin Beijing Financial Street, 9B Financial Street, Xicheng District

When: the last Friday of every month from June 26, 7-10 pm

Cost: 100 yuan net per person

Tel: 6629 7815



Paulaner Beer Garden BBQ

Paulaner Beer Garden BBQ

Summer is back, and so is the Paulaner Terrace and its weekend Barbeque. Enjoy your favorite steaks or marinated ribs cooked on a charcoal grill and served with a baked potato, garden salad and selection of fine grill sauces. There is no better way than to spend an evening in Paulaner Bräuhaus than with the home-brewed Paulaner Weiss Beer, a German classic, and great Bavarian food.

Where: Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 30, Friday-Sunday, 5-10 pm

Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 5732

Hotel

MaxiMICE

From now until December 31, MICE organizers who confirm a group will get a 10 percent credit toward their next meeting at any of 62 Shangri-La hotels and resorts worldwide. The offer, which carries a maximum credit of US \$5,000 (34,100 yuan), is valid at any Shangri-La location. This group-wide incentive program provides extra value to meeting organizers, and the credit is valid until December 31, 2010. The offer is available for any booking with a minimum of 10 rooms plus meeting facilities.

Grand Mercure Xidan Beijing

Grand Mercure Xidan Beijing is ideally located in the heart of the city. This highly stylish and contemporary hotel, located in the business and commercial shopping district of Xidan, offers a

personalized experience whether traveling on business or leisure.

As many as 260 employees from Grand Mercure Xidan Beijing had an opportunity to visit an aircraft carrier in Binhai, Tianjin, for this year's staff outing. Everyone not only benefited from the pleasurable trip but also the history of knowledge.

New chef starts creating

Stephen Lo has been appointed executive Chinese chef of Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel Beijing. Lo, from Hong Kong, has a wealth of hotel and restaurant experience in kitchen operations. A maestro of Chinese cuisine, Lo has cooked for heads of state and celebrities, whom he impressed with his creative contributions to the world of Chinese food.

Aviation

Air France, Delta cooperate on trans-Atlantic

Air France KLM and Delta Air Lines announced a new joint venture in which the airlines will cooperate on trans-Atlantic flights, sharing revenues and costs. The airlines will cooperate on routes between North America and Africa, the Middle East and India, as well as between Europe and several Latin American countries. The cooperation will offer customers more frequent flights and competitive fares.

Tourism

New Acropolis Museum to be inaugurated

The galleries of the new Acropolis Museum open June 20 below the Parthenon temple of the Acropolis. Greece campaigned for decades to retrieve from the British Museum the Parthenon sculptures, taken away 200 years ago by Lord Elgin, British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. The statues are an integral part of one the world's most important monuments, though the British Museum continues to hoard the treasures.

Coffee with cream special offer

Order a coffee with cream at Emmi by June 30, or between September 1 and November 30, for a chance to win one of 10 million prizes. This offer by Emmi and the Lucerne Tourist Board will grant lucky consumers a 20 to 50 percent discount on excursions in the Lake Lucerne Region. Check under the lid for your chance to win.

Web: www.luzern.com/emmi



New Acropolis Museum to be inaugurated

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Losing track of the night

By Wang Yu

Every day after sundown, the city changes character. She becomes a young beauty all dressed up and in a hurry to join the party, then she sits on the sofa waiting for some handsome man to ask her to dance.

In every popular night club we see similar women but do not know what they're after. The music? I've been hearing the same vulgar pop song remixes for years. The drinks? Everyone seems to chug down the same supermarket beer. Hunting for a new lover? This makes more sense – but ladies should really pay more attention to their English skills if their next target is a foreign guy.

One winter evening two years ago, I brought to a night club my friend William, an Englishman who was in Beijing to study. Though I can't stand places with no good rock performances, another friend of mine was hosting a party there, so I had no choice but to go. William and I decided to finish a bottle of beer each then head for the door.

I've heard many women say William is good-looking. He dresses up like a British rock star with his slim jeans and classic double-button coat. He looked no different that evening and the ladies were staring at him like they just discovered a new cure for acne.

"Don't worry about me, mate, you know me," William said with a smile. Unlike many young Western men in Beijing who are proud to be ladies' men, William was a bit shy and a romantic – he was waiting for the right woman.

"Cheers!" I said, as another song from the Black Eyed Peas blasted from the speakers. The crowd's energy level was rising, while there I was, making small talk with the party organizer, trying to find a way to politely say good-bye. When I turned, an attractive young Chinese woman had approached William.

"Hi, I'm Vivian, can I sit here?" she said, pointing to the seat beside him. I



gave her a point for not wearing a night club "bling bling" dress.

"Yes of course, please," my English friend said.

While they were chatting animatedly, William asked me to join them. Vivian didn't look upset at my intrusion and even gave me the same sweet smile she would beam at my friend. The DJ started playing a Franz Ferdinand remix with a disco beat, which sounded strange, but William and I let it pass because we loved the band so much.

"I can lose track of the night listening to their music!" William said to Vivian over the loud music.

"What did you say? I think the DJ didn't lose any tracks, he's doing a good job," she said.

"Ah ... I meant 'I can stay up all night' when I said 'I can lose track of the night.' That's an idiom," William said with a smile.

"Oh, sorry, I see ..." Vivian said,

clearly embarrassed.

William didn't dwell on it. "This is a song from my favorite band, so what's your deal?"

"Me? I'm not that kind of girl! I'm not talking with you to make some kind of deal!" Vivian said, suddenly angry and about to leave her seat.

"No, no, please stay. You misunderstood me. I was trying to ask who your favorite singer is by saying 'What's your deal.' I swear, I didn't mean anything rude," my friend explained.

"I'll never use these idioms again," William turned to me in a whisper. "But what a lovely girl," he said.

Now, two years later, William has found a job in town and Vivian and he are happy together. Vivian always says she was attracted to William the moment she saw him from the club doorway, and my English friend fell in love with her that night. It seems there are also long-term relationships that are born in night clubs.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Take the crews prisoners

"To take" can mean "to capture, to seize."

To take someone prisoner is a set phrase no matter how many people are involved. You say, "The police took the robber prisoner"; similarly, "The police took two robbers prisoner." Remember "prisoner" in this expression is always singular. So, this sentence should be rewritten as, "Take the crews prisoner."

2. The drugs are marketed despite a minimal testing.

It is very difficult to discern the error in this seemingly grammatically correct sentence. However, the way the idea is expressed is wrong. The usage of the preposition "despite" is wrong too. As you know, "despite" as a preposition means "in spite of." For instance, The boy went on a walk despite the rain. "Walk" and "rain" are incompatible in this sense. Look at another example: Despite various drawbacks, India is determined to raise her standard of living. In this sentence, "drawbacks" is the counterpoint for the verb "to raise." Based on this principle, let us see what is wrong with the sentence "The drugs are marketed despite a minimal testing." The action "to market" does not constitute the counterpoint for "testing." The correct way to say it is: The drugs were marketed following only minimal testing. If you insist on using the preposition "despite," then you have to say: The drugs are marketed despite strong opposition by pharmaceutical scientists.

3. Nostalgic visit of old toys

Can you discern what is wrong with this phrase? The problem lies in the usage of the preposition "of." When "visit" is used as a noun, meaning "the act of going to a place for sightseeing or pleasure," it is followed by the preposition "to." For instance, He paid a visit to a foreign country; He paid a visit to a dentist; My aunt paid a visit to us last week. So, the sentence above should be: nostalgic visit to old toys.

Native speaker: Penny Turner

1. Take the crews prisoners

I agree with Professor Zhu's correction. This expression is actually related to the idioms to "hold someone hostage" or to "take someone hostage." Like "prisoner," the word "hostage" is always singular as it serves as a description of the people's "situation." For example, The terrorists held everyone on the airplane hostage; The deranged man took the preschool children hostage.

2. The drugs are marketed despite a minimal testing.

I would rewrite the sentence above as, "The drugs were marketed despite minimal testing," but I agree with the idea it is trying to express. Drugs to treat human beings should ideally go through a battery of tests before they are marketed, because once they are sent out into the world and problems are later discovered, recalling them becomes a herculean task. So I see a tension between "marketing" and "minimal testing": people want to be assured that the drugs they get their hands on are certified safe and have gone through proper tests. Adequate testing has become the expected standard procedure before new drugs are sold to the public.

3. Nostalgic visit of old toys

The professor is right; the phrase above should be rewritten, nostalgic visit to old toys. "Visit of old toys" sounds like it were the toys – inanimate objects – making a nostalgic trip somewhere. This is perfectly acceptable in a Disney cartoon, but not in our world.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Sweet service room

By Tiffany Tan

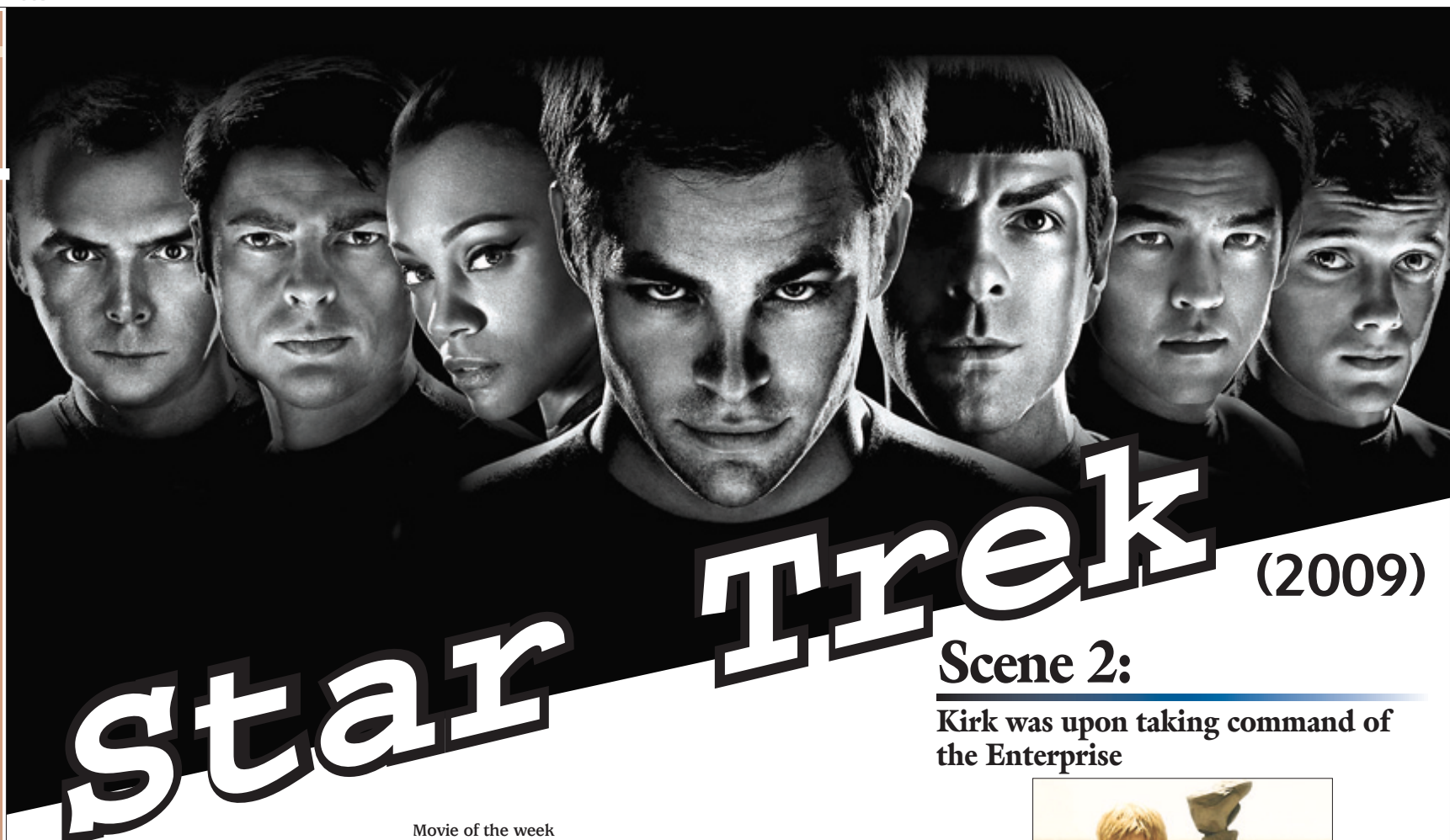
This reminds me of another sign I saw at the Olympic village last month: "Tender fragrant grass, how hard-hearted to trample them," which simply meant, "Keep off the grass!"

I still have not figured out if such signs reflect the Chinese culture's indirect way of discussing sensitive matters – like giving an important guest (or tourists) stern orders – or if it is just their way of trying to be creative so their signs attract attention. If it is the latter, then their Chinglish versions have succeeded.



The sign pictured here indicates a "service" area or room; *wēnxīn* means "warm" and *fúwùshì* means "service room."

As long as the place's service is efficient and polite, then "sweet" is just a bonus. But show mercy to the sign and drop "sweet."



(2009)

Scene 2:

Kirk was upon taking command of the Enterprise



Kirk: Attention crew of the Enterprise, this is James Kirk. Mr Spock has resigned commission and advanced me to acting captain (5). I know you are all expecting to regroup with the fleet, but I'm ordering a pursuit course (6) of the enemy ship to

Earth. I want all departments at battle stations and ready in 10 minutes. Either we're going down ... or they are. Kirk out.

Spock: Once you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.

Scene 3:

Spock notices an old Vulcan walking in the docking bay

Young Spock (Y): Father ...
[The elder Vulcan turns and is revealed as Spock Prime]

Old Spock (O): I am not our father. There are so few Vulcans left. We cannot afford to ignore each other.

(Young Spock, now recognizing who he is, approaches.)

Y: Then why did you send Kirk aboard, when you alone could have explained the truth?

O: Because you needed each other. I could not deprive you of (7) the revelation of all that you could accomplish together, of a friendship that will define you both in ways you cannot yet realize.

Y: How did you persuade him to keep your secret?

O: He inferred that universe-ending paradoxes would ensue should he break

his promise ...

Y: You lied?

O: Ah ... I implied.

Y: A gamble.

O: An act of faith. One I hope that you will repeat in your future in Starfleet. In the face of extinction, it is only logical that I resign my Starfleet commission and help rebuild our race ... And, yet, you can be in two places at once. I urge you to remain in Starfleet. I have already located a suitable planet in which to establish a Vulcan colony. Spock, in this case, do yourself a favor: Put aside logic. Do what feels right.

Movie of the week

As a fan of *Lost*, I stayed up late to catch the World Premiere of *Star Trek*, JJ Abram's newest venture. I had never seen *Star Trek* before: neither in its TV nor movie incarnations. Yet dreams of spaceships ripping through outer space were dancing in my head.

What made this film special was not the story. It is not that I was not impressed by the character development, acting, script or story – this film was so gorgeous that I could not focus on anything else.

It was overall an excellent feature. It might not deserve a 100 percent rating, but it goes above and beyond 90 percent. Just be sure to see it while it is on the big screen: no DVD can do it justice.

Synopsis

The greatest adventure of all time begins in *Star Trek*, the incredible story of a young crew's maiden voyage aboard the most advanced starship ever created: the USS Enterprise. On a journey filled with action, comedy and cosmic peril, new recruits must find a way to stop an evil being whose mission of vengeance threatens mankind.

The fate of the galaxy rests in the hands of bitter rivals. James T. Kirk (Chris Pine) is a delinquent, thrill-seeking Iowa farm boy, while his counterpart Spock (Zachary Quinto) was raised in a logic-based society that rejects all emotion.

As fiery instinct clashes with calm reason, their unlikely but powerful partnership is the only thing capable of leading the crew through unimaginable danger, boldly going where no one has gone before!

Scene 1:

During the Kobayashi Maru test

Nyota Uhura (U): We are receiving a distress signal (1) from the USS Kobayashi Maru. The ship has lost power and is stranded (2). Starfleet Command has ordered us to rescue them.

James Kirk (K): [clearly enjoying himself] Starfleet Command has ordered us to rescue them ... captain.

Leonard McCoy (M): Two Klingon warbirds (3) have entered the Neutral Zone and are locking weapons on us.

K: [Smugly] That's okay.

M: "That's okay?"

K: Yeah, don't worry about it.

M: Three more Klingon warbirds decloaking (4) and locking



onto our ship. I don't suppose this is a problem either.

K: Alert Medical bay to receive all crew members from the damaged ship.

U: And how do you expect us to rescue them when we're surrounded by Klingons, captain?

K: Alert Medical.

M: Our ship's being hit. Shields are at sixty percent.

K: I understand.

M: Well, should we – oh, I dunno – fire back?

K: Naw.

M: Of course not.

(The entire simulation suddenly shuts down, then starts back up.)

K: Hmm. Arm photons, prepare to fire on the Klingon war birds.

M: Jim, their shields are still up!

K: Are they?

M: [McCoy checks again, taken aback] No ... They're not.

K: Fire on all enemy ships. One photon each should do it. No sense in wasting ammunition.

Vocabulary

1. **distress signal:** a method by which a ship can summon assistance.

2. **be stranded:** be halted or struck in a difficult situation

3. **warbird:** military aircraft

4. **decloak:** to remove a disguise, in this case to become visible

5. **acting captain:** the position of acting captain is bestowed upon an officer when a regular commander cannot continue his task

6. **pursuit course:** a direction or route taken to chase something

7. **deprive ... of:** take away a possession or opportunity

(By Huang Daohen)